

*Hafa Adai!*

Delta, Cape Air resume  
yesterday.

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Govt looking at \$134M  
budget for fiscal 2016.

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

## HPO has no archaeologist to guide Section 106 talks

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
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REPORTER

The Historic Preservation Office's sole archaeologist resigned 11 days ago, prompting the HPO board to recall the tough hiring prospects of past years and consider the scarce technical resources it faces as the CNMI stares down the release this week of impact documents on proposed joint military live-fire trainings.

Concerns over the CNMI Joint Live-Fire Training Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Pagan and Tinian—due on April 3—were raised after HPO

**See HPO on Page 4**

### CHC down to 157 nurses, doctors at 130

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
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REPORTER

The number of nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center is currently at 157, just a one-person drop compared to March of last year when the hospital had 158 nurses, according to hospital administrator Jesse Tudela.

He conceded, though, that recruitment challenges continue due to hard-to-fill positions, change in status, or personal matters that result in some

**See CHC on Page 4**



### SECOND WOMEN'S SUMMIT

Several members of the CNMI's 19th Legislature join CNMI Women's Association board and staff, including Gov. Eloy S. Inos' daughter, Dora, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' wife, Diann, and Guam Legislature Speaker Judith Won Pat, front row, fifth from left, during the second annual Women's Summit held yesterday morning at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

JAYSON CAMACHO

**See story on Page 2**

## Ex-convict gets 286 months in prison for kidnapping

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho handed

down a sentence of 23 years and 10 months in prison against an ex-convict

for kidnapping and beating up a drinking partner but rejected a separate proposed plea agreement for the man's co-defendant.

» **Camacho rejects co-defendant's plea deal**

At a change of plea hearing on Friday, Camacho accepted Joy Fred's guilty plea and sentenced him to the full maximum

of 28 years and 10 months imprisonment, with five years suspended, for kidnapping.

The 24-year-old Fred will serve the 23 years and 10 months without early release or work release but he will be eligible for parole after serving 10 years in prison.

**See EX-CONVICT on Page 4**

### INSIDE



#### LOCAL

KC Lynn T. Barcinas is pursuing her dream of becoming a professional chef.

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#### LOCAL

A series of festivities usher in Mariana Resort and Spa's 37th year on Saipan.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

The iHeartRadio Music Awards should be called the iHeart-TaylorSwift Awards.

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## Local

## US House passes 'doc fix' bill, Kilili says

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill to expand funding for the Commonwealth Health Center to \$7.2 billion and to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP for another two years.

According to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), the bill, referred to the "doc fix"

bill, was passed on a bipartisan vote of 392 to 37.

Although the Senate must still act on the bill, the White House has said that President Obama supports the measure, Sablan said.

In the Northern Mariana Islands, the Kagman Community Health Center will be receiving \$887,173 in the current fiscal year.

NMI CHIP, which provides health insurance for children

from low-income families, receives about \$999,756 this year and is expected to increase to \$1.4 million in fiscal year 2016 in accordance with the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, Sablan said.

H.R. 2 also fixes a longstanding problem with the reimbursement rates for doctors who treat patients on Medicare, the federal health insurance program for seniors.

Sablan said he is a cosponsor of the Medicaid and CHIP Territory Transparency and Information Act.

"Data for the insular areas is often in short supply, and without data it can be difficult to build a case for changes in federal law to benefit us. That is why I am an original cosponsor of the Medicaid and CHIP Territory Transparency and Information Act, introduced this

week by Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Florida)," he said.

The bill, H.R. 1570, requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish online information on how Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP, are carried out in American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Both Medicaid and CHIP provide medical care for those who

cannot afford it. Currently, data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia is posted at the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services website, <http://www.medicare.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-State/By-State.html>.

H.R. 1570 requires that data from the insular areas be collected and posted, including the number and incomes of people enrolled in the two programs and the federal and local share of spending. Information will also be required about the Medicaid and CHIP plans in each insular area.

## 2ND WOMEN'S SUMMIT

## Won Pat: Take responsibility for military buildup plans

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
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REPORTER

The 2nd Women's Summit kicked off yesterday with Guam Legislature Speaker Judith Won Pat citing the military buildup during one of the panel discussions on what the CNMI could do to protect its culture and future.

Speaking as a panelist under the topic of "Empowering Women as Leaders," Won Pat focused on the construction of live-fire training facilities being proposed for Tinian and Pagan, compared them to two other areas that were proposed for Guam, and how the community voiced their concerns.

"I am aware that the draft Environmental Impact Statement on the military's plan for training on Tinian and Pagan will be released this Friday—April 3—and Guam has gone through two very major military impact statements since 2010 concerning the military buildup and learned many lessons about leadership in the process," she said.

"Our community has been

divided about the buildup. The popular perception has been that the buildup would result in economic growth and jobs, both of which our island needs. However, it will also result in unnatural population growth [that] will strain our infrastructure and increase the demand on public services," she added.

Concerns raised about the buildup focused on its potential for negative impact on the environment and the culture of Guam. The most contentious issue, she said, is the need to find a place where the U.S. Marines can conduct live-fire training among Guam's cultural and historical sites.

Won Pat said she studied the situation from all angles and perspectives, read all necessary documents, did additional research, looked at similar situations in other places, and studied the CNMI's history for answers.

"I wanted to understand as much as what was being planned and how it would impact us. I knew that the plan to move the Marines to Guam was intended to lessen the presence of Marines

in Okinawa, so I went to Okinawa to see it," she said.

According to Won Pat, Okinawa's community had been protesting the Marine's presence on their island since 1995, when three Marines kidnapped a 12-year-old girl and raped her.

"I had to ask myself if that is what I wanted for my community. I had to listen...I met with the women and they had valid concerns about the impact on children and the amount of money it would cost our government...I formed a group and became vocal about the need to put Guam first...I was heavily criticized and deemed anti-military, but as a woman I would not back down," she said.

She said the youth empowered her, enabling her to spread the word into Guam's community and its leaders. Some 10,000 comments were made when the draft EIS came out, which she says the Navy said was unheard of.

"We share the same culture. I invite you to the path we've taken and ask yourself: Is this what you want for Tinian and Pagan?

We have to learn from each other because no matter what political lines divide us, we are all one family. ...My final point is, everything I do as a leader I do from a place of love for my family, island, ancestors, and future generations. ...CNMI, you have more political power than we do in Guam because you are a Commonwealth. If you don't want Pagan to be bombed, you can say no...make it happen," she said.

In related news, Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), who chairs the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, said that military officials will be sitting with the committee this Thursday to discuss the military's plans.

Demapan said the military has been holding many stakeholder meetings but never with the Legislature.

"Like what Won Pat said, if they want to be a part of the community, they have to be a partner of the community and that opens that dialogue so that they can become a good and responsible partner and benefit our community," he said.

## Japanese investor keen to re-open Rota casino

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A Japanese investor is eyeing to re-open the casino on Rota and is planning to bring more tourists to the island.

Watanabe Masahiro, president of Rota Treasure Island Casino and Hotel and also a junket operator for the Japan market, said he has no date yet on when to open the closed casino.

Rota Treasure Island Casino and Hotel is the first casino on Rota but it closed down a few years ago. It is one of two casino license holders on Rota.

Masahiro, through an interpreter, said he is still interested in investing on Rota and one of the ways to do that is to re-open the casino.

Masahiro visited Rota recently to meet with the Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and Vianney Hocog, the vice president of Rota Treasure Island Casino and Hotel.

Aside from himself, Masahiro said he also brought

along Korean investors who are looking to invest on Rota, this time for a golf course.

The golf course will be located near Rota Treasure Island Hotel, Masahiro said.

The investor, however, said he cannot yet name the investors as the projects are still in the planning stages.

Of his junket business, Masahiro said he will still try to bring in Japanese tourists to the CNMI. He acknowledged that the Japanese market continues to dwindle but that he "will try" to bring in the tourists.

Masahiro said he is willing to work on Saipan, aside from his investments on Rota.

Masahiro said he is willing to work with Best Sunshine International, Ltd., the exclusive casino licensee on Saipan, to bring in Japanese tourists for the casino that Best Sunshine is currently constructing.

The temporary casino Best Sunshine will be operating, Masahiro said, will be "good for tourists."

**ASAN, Guam**—On March 17, a multilateral conference was held in Guam regarding increasing illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, or IUU, in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau.

Upon reviewing case studies of increasing IUU boats from Southeast Asia and South Asia illegally fishing in the FSM and Palau economic exclusion zones, the delegations forged an understanding of IUU emerging issues and a process for collaborative short- and long-term solutions.

The delegations committed to expand regional partnerships in combating IUU violations in small island nations.

Participants included the U.S. Department of State, American Embassy Kolonia, American Embassy Koror, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. military, Australian Embassy for the Micronesia Region, and

## Illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing in FSM and Palau increasing

delegations from FSM and Palau.

The U.S. delegation was led by U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen (FSM) and U.S. Ambassador Amy Hyatt (Palau). The Australian delegation was led by Second Secretary and Consul Nikola Pejic. The FSM delegation was led by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert. The Palau delegation was led by Special Assistant to the President Keobel Sakuma.

Observers included U.S. Pacific Command staff, Federal Bureau of Investigation Guam office, Australia's Office of National Assessment, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and Yap state government. The meeting was facilitated by the U.S. Defense Representative office for FSM and Palau. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Representatives of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Guam, and the U.S. Coast Guard pose for a photo at the Joint Region Marianas Flag conference room in Asan, Guam, on March 17.



# Propst: Cape Air failed the people of the CNMI

BY JOEL D. PINAROC  
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REPORTER

A lawmaker plans to call a public meeting to solicit testimonials over the continued flight delays of Cape Air on its Guam, Saipan, and Rota routes.

Cape Air delayed flights again this week, citing "maintenance issues."

"Enough is enough. Cape Air has continually failed the people of the CNMI. We need

to stop directing our frustrations to Cape Air. They don't care," Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) said.

The lawmaker said he will "be calling for a public hearing to collect testimonials for United Airlines and will ask United representatives to attend."

"And if no representative from United attends, then it will prove that United really does not care about the CNMI," he said.

## OPD accuses prosecutor of ethical violations

The Office of the Public Defender has accused a prosecutor of ethical violations and asked the Superior Court to impose sanction by striking the government's proposed 44 exhibits in a criminal case and exclude them from being admitted at trial.

Assistant public defender Eden Schwartz, counsel for Ignacio Villagomez, said that assistant attorney general Clayton Graef, the prosecutor in Villagomez's case, after being admonished about the same conduct in previous cases, willfully put evidence before the court, acting as the trier of fact in violation of the rules of evidence and the rules of professional conduct.

Division of Fish and Wildlife Investigation Unit officers arrested Villagomez last December for allegedly fishing using an illegal gillnet at a Lau Lau Beach dive spot.

Gillnet fishing is only authorized for special circumstances such as church village fiesta and only after applying for a special permit from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary.

In Villagomez's motion to strike yesterday, Schwartz disclosed that on Dec. 2, 2014, she was served with a set of marked exhibits in another criminal case. She said it was Graef who signed the "marked exhibits." She said she had a phone conversation with him, explaining why the filing was improper in that case.

In particular, Schwartz explained that the proposed exhibits had not been admitted, contained hearsay, and otherwise lacked evidentiary foundation.

She further explained that because some counts in that case would be tried to the bench, the filing was particularly prejudicial to the defendant.

Schwartz said that, on the following day, she moved to strike the "marked exhibits" and the court granted the motion and sealed the filing that same day.

In another criminal case, Schwartz said that Graef signed another filing of documents whose admissibility was questioned.

Last March 18, the same prosecutor in Villagomez's case filed 44 documents as exhibits with the court.

Schwartz said these documents include multiple images, and other documents contain-

ing assertions of various facts, which would likely be objected to on various grounds.

She said the court sealed those exhibits that same day.

Schwartz asserted that the proposed exhibits must be stricken from the record because they have not been admitted into evidence.

She pointed out that many of these documents are hearsay or contain hearsay within them.

Schwartz said based on Graef's representations made in court he did seek counsel from his colleagues about the issue, and that he did not carefully read the trial setting order in Villagomez's case.

"These representations alone bespeak a lack of diligence," Schwartz said.

She said a sanction will have a deterrent effect on the Office of the Attorney General by sending a strong message that the OAG must properly train their new attorneys to ensure that their office's standards meet with the ethical obligations that apply to all attorneys working in the Commonwealth.

Graef is expected to reply to the motion. (Ferdie de la Torre)

"This has become more than an inconvenience. This is hurting businesses, hurting our tourism industry, and putting our health and safety in jeopardy. We will gather these testimonials and will forward it to United as well as our U.S. Congressman Kilili Sablan."

Propst said that Cape Air's "broken planes and horrible service have got to go and we need to find another carrier to take over this route."

Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) shared that due to the

delay, one of his staff is stuck in Guam.

"One of my staff is still there, as there are no available flights," Sablan said. "They don't seem to care probably because there is no competition, and there's no other airline available to serve passengers."

Cancellations of flights by Cape Air have drawn the ire of CNMI lawmakers who are now demanding that the airline operator give a more detailed explanation for the cancellations.

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-

Rota) earlier said her office has received many complaints on the cancellations and "poor customer" service by Cape Air crew in Guam.

The lawmaker said these cancellations and poor service

"might be an opportunity for the CNMI to explore engaging the services of other airlines."

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) said the executives of the airline should come to the CNMI and "face the music" instead of just issuing press releases.



Propst

"They are not being fair," the lawmaker said, adding that he does not see the logic why ticket prices continue to rise every time an airplane breaks down.

Cape Air flight cancellations have continued from last weekend, after flights were canceled last Friday, reportedly due to a technical issue with their aircraft.

United Airlines provided an extra flight on a Boeing 737-800 to accommodate passengers. Cape Air and United are code-share partners.

## 'No probable cause to charge teen with sexual assault'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho stands pat on his earlier ruling that there was no probable cause to charge 19-year-old William Atalig Jr. with sexual assault in the first or second degree for having sex with a then-17-year-old girl on Rota.

In an order yesterday, Camacho said he was swayed by assistant public defender Matthew Meyer's cross-examination of police detective Therese Kintoki, and found that the alleged sex encounter occurred with consent.

In denying the government's motion for reconsideration, Camacho said the Office of the Attorney General also failed to show clear error in his previous ruling.

The OAG had charged Atalig with sexual assault in the first degree, sexual assault in the second degree, incest, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Camacho said that Kintoki's

description of the alleged victim's behavior indicated willing participation, and it was thus found that the alleged victim had indeed consented.

The OAG asked the court to reconsider.

Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley argued that the court erred when it found no probable cause for the charge of sexual assault in the first or second degree.

In denying the motion, Camacho said that during the entire incident, an older relative of the girl was in the living room and her bedroom door was open.

Camacho noted that the alleged victim remained silent, as did Atalig.

The judge also pointed out that the alleged victim's actual behavior indicated willing participation. For instance, Camacho noted, the alleged victim's movements telegraphed a desire to participate, as she moved her body in a manner to allow Atalig to remove her clothes.

Based on Kintoki's testimony, the court found that prob-

able cause did not exist for either sexual assault charge, as the court found that the alleged victim had consented.

Camacho recently dismissed the incest charge filed against Atalig, saying that Atalig is not an uncle under the common English language definition of "uncle."

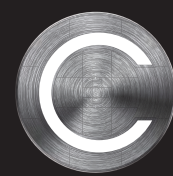
He said Atalig and the alleged victim are not sufficiently related for the alleged sexual encounter between them to qualify as incest.

According to the parties,

the alleged victim is related to Atalig by blood. *Saipan Tribune* opted not to disclose the specific relationship to protect the alleged victim.

Although the girl was 17 at the time, Atalig was not charged with sexual abuse of a minor because he and the girl are only a year apart in age.

At the preliminary hearing in December, the court also found no probable cause to charge Atalig with disturbing the peace. The government elected not to pursue the assault and battery charge.



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# Delta, Cape Air resume flights yesterday

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
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REPORTER

Airline flight schedules at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport met some technical hiccups, with several flights cancelled yesterday and this weekend.

Delta Air Lines flight 298 from Narita to Saipan on Sunday, and Flight 297 from Saipan back to Narita yes-

terday were cancelled. This was due to maintenance and crewing issues, according to Ryoko Matsumoto, Delta Air Lines corporate communications officer.

Flight 288 from Narita to Saipan on March 29 was delayed overnight and Flight 287 from Saipan to Narita on March 30 will be delayed for approximately eight hours.

To accommodate passen-

gers, delayed Flight 288 passengers hopped on board a bigger aircraft, a Boeing 744, and arrived on Saipan at 12:40pm.

The delayed Flight 287 B744 was also expected to fly out from Saipan to Narita yesterday with the same B744.

Cape Air/United Express also resumed flights yesterday morning, after cancellations

over the weekend following a maintenance issue.

United continued to provide extra flights between the islands using a Boeing 737-700 aircraft to accommodate the affected passengers.

Cape Air resumed normal operations yesterday morning. In a statement, the carrier apologized for the any inconvenience this may have caused to their passengers.

## Proclamations on protecting kids, women to be inked Wednesday

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
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REPORTER

Three proclamations aimed at protecting children and women in the CNMI will be signed this Wednesday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

This will designate the month of April as the official month to highlight the specific objectives of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse and

Neglect Awareness Month, and Week of the Young Child.

Partnering agencies include the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and DCCA-Division of Youth Services.

SAAM aims not only to lift the veil of secrecy but to increase awareness, engage bystanders and expand support and strength-

en the system's response to domestic and sexual violence.

Last year's theme for SAAM was "Your Voice, Our Future: End Sexual Violence."

Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month aims to prevent child abuse and neglect, enable DYS to respond to child abuse and neglect, manage and supervise cases and provide supportive programs and services, thus preserving families.

Last year the theme for Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month was "Making Meaningful Connections."

The Early Childhood Month/Week of the Young Child recognizes the importance of early learning, literacy, and celebrate the teachers, caregivers, and lawmakers that bring early childhood education to young children.

These three proclamation signings will happen at 10am.

## EX-CONVICT

From Page 1

For violating the terms and conditions of his probation in a previous criminal case, Fred was sentenced to three years and 10 months in prison, to be served concurrently with his sentence in the kidnapping case.

This means that Fred's total prison term in the two cases is 23 years and 10 months, with credit for time served.

Fred was ordered to pay restitution to the victim, Willie Lee Brundidge Jr., in an amount to be determined at a separate hearing.

After completing the prison term, Fred will be placed on 10 years of probation. He was required to pay a \$500 fine, perform 300 hours of community service, and not possess or consume alcohol while on probation.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as counsel for Fred.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Fred with kidnapping, conspiracy, aggravated assault and battery, theft of

vehicle, and disturbing the peace.

If convicted of all charges, Fred was facing a possible consecutive two life sentences plus 11 years and six months in prison, Camacho said. By pleading guilty to kidnapping and probation violation, the OAG dropped the remaining charges.

Camacho noted that Fred has a prior conviction for attempted robbery and disturbing the peace in two cases.

As for Fred's co-defendant, Titomir Kapileo Bhuiyan, Camacho found the proposed plea agreement offered by the government to be too lenient and rejected it.

It was the second proposed plea deal offered to Bhuiyan. The new proposed deal recommended a sentence of 19 years in prison, all suspended except for 16 years.

The OAG had charged the 21-year-old Bhuiyan with kidnapping, assault and battery, theft of vehicle, and disturbing the peace. If convicted of all charges, Bhuiyan faces a possible life sentence plus two years and six months in prison, Camacho said.

Camacho noted that Bhuiyan

has a prior conviction.

"The people of the CNMI deserve to have a safe community. There can be no justice without the appropriate punishment," he said.

In particular, the judge said, there have been a rash of unsolved murders and disappearances of people in the past few years that have left the CNMI community worried and concerned.

Camacho said the prison sentence in the proposed plea agreement fails to conform to the standards of the court and the CNMI community. He said the proposed deal is silent and does not restrict parole, probation, and other early release.

If the court were to accept this plea deal, Camacho said that Bhuiyan would be eligible for work release or weekend furlough immediately.

He said Bhuiyan would also be eligible to be released on parole after serving only four years in prison.

Camacho said he asked the counsels to at least state any mitigating (or aggravating) factors that would explain to the court why these terms are fair

and just. He said the explanation given did not resolve the court's concerns.

He said per the rules the court can not enter into negotiations with the parties, but does require at least an explanation in order to determine if the terms are fair and just.

Camacho said the court did its best to impress upon counsels its concerns, but the counsels seem to fail to fully address that issue of not just the length of sentence (which is a factor) but the actual sentence to be served.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government. Attorney Daniel Guidotti served as counsel for Bhuiyan.

While drinking, Fred and Bhuiyan allegedly beat up Brundidge, put him in a car and went to another location, where they continued beating and hitting him. The victim managed to escape by shouting for help. Police said Brundidge suffered a fractured on the right eye and needed to be seen by another doctor. His right eye was swollen. The incident happened from Nov. 29 to 30, 2014.

## HPO

From Page 1

updated the board on a vacant archaeologist position.

Board members emphasized the technical expertise they'd need in negotiations for mitigations to any historic land the military may want to acquire, specifically on Pagan.

According to HPO director Merti Kani, previous HPO archaeologist Eric Lash's job was "to do review of Sec[ti]on 106" of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which requires federal agencies like the military to take into account their effects on historic properties.

HPO specialist John Palacios said there are 37 nationally registered historic sites in the CNMI. None are on Pa-

gan. He noted, though, there are many eligible sites that are still "intact" on the island.

When asked to come up with a number, he said, "A lot. A lot." He could not verify a total yesterday.

According to Kani, Lash cited family reasons in his resignation letter. Before Lash, the archaeologist position had been vacant for three years, from 2011 to 2014.

Board member Don Farrell emphasized the need to have a proper historical officer at the office, noting that the military has spent million of dollars on teams to have their perspective on their work.

"We are behind the 8-ball," he said.

"The government has grossly underestimated the need for primary research to respond to that

document," he said, calling the 40-day scramble to respond to the DEIS "not adequate."

Farrell said military officials have been walking the halls of the Legislature for the last five years, while the CNMI "hasn't even open[ed] the door."

He said they don't need just one archaeologist, "we need several."

"We need that funding now," or else the CNMI is "never going to make it to that position to negotiate mitigations."

HPO board vice chair Dr. Hiro Kurashina backed Farrell's concern, noting that at the University of Guam where he works, the anthropology department has no archaeologists. They have left for institutions in Australia and California, he said.

Even private firms are having trouble recruiting archae-

ologists in the Pacific, he said. Average employment is sixth months, he said.

"We are competing with other employment opportunities" like the U.S. Navy, he said, where "their salary...is quite attractive."

Farrell said the CNMI Covenant guarantees that if the military wants more land they'd have to engage in dialogue. "How do we decide how much is Pagan worth? We are historians," he said, adding it is their job not to repeat history's mistakes.

"We got robbed in '75," he said, referring to lease of Tinian land to the military. "We got robbed big time."

Board member Dr. Elizabeth Rechebai said that without technical expertise, they "are operating in a vacuum."

# HPO elects new chairman, introduces new historian

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
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REPORTER

The CNMI Division of Historic Preservation review board held their quarterly meeting yesterday, electing their officers and introducing HPO's new historian after the position had been vacant the last six years.

Pedro A. Duenas Jr. was elected board chairman. Dr. Hiro Kurashina was nominated and elected vice chairman after member Don Farrell turned down the nomination, citing a time he needs to finish a book project.

Duenas thanked the board for electing him, saying he is familiar with the program but may need some refreshing, after retiring in 2010. He asked for their help, saying the board serves to

help the HPO program. "Let's try to hold hands and serve as board members," he said.

Board member Elizabeth Rechebai thanked outgoing chair Farrell for his efforts.

HPO director Merti Kani introduced Ray Muna to the board as the division's newest historian. "So far I'm loving it," he said.

Muña has been giving presentations on the Spanish influence in the CNMI and the importance of the CNMI during World War II to public school students since he's been with the office.

Rechebai said it is wonderful to have a historian on board, adding that Muña will help make CNMI history accessible to audiences.

## CHC

From Page 1

nurses leaving.

"This is the reason for our nursing staff numbers fluctuating every time, despite the efforts in recruitment and retaining nurses," Tudela said.

He revealed that all of the hospital's 157 nurses are either registered nurses or licensed practical nurses.

The hospital currently has 30 vacant positions. However, that will change in a few months because, according to Tudela, they are already in the process of hiring 11 more nurses.

Of the remaining 19 vacancies, one is in psychiatry, four is in the Intensive Care Unit, three in Obstetrics/Gynecology, five in Medical Surgical, two in the neo-natal intensive care unit, one for the clinic, one for the operating room, and two nurse supervisors.

Hard-to-fill in positions include nurses who specialize in the operating room, ICU, and NICU.

Tudela belied reports that the recent resignation of some nurses was due to the recent elimination of housing perks for off-island hires.

"Some nurses went back to State-side and others went to the Philippines for personal reasons. One nurse supervisor who is a local resigned for personal reasons. Another resigned today 'cause he got petitioned for a green card and went off-island. Many others are all personal reasons, so it is not the housing benefit that made them resign," he said.

Tudela said the salary for nurses range from \$24,889 to \$35,013 per annum, based on degree and experience.

"Our director for nursing said that the number of hires of last year is almost equal to the numbers of nurses that resigned. We're working hard in recruiting, yet there are many resigning. If it isn't personal, it's that they get visas for permanent residence," he said.

Tudela said the numbers of nurses that they have doesn't

include the number of nurses on Tinian and Rota.

He also clarified that the extended wait times for some patients is not due to the lack of nurses but the high census of rooms that are occupied.

"Sometimes the [census of rooms] remains high and only possible solution for this is to expand areas for more rooms. So far, ICU has only four beds and nursing shortage, but first and foremost the waiting time is on the rooms available," Tudela said.

## Physicians, practitioners, assistants

The number of physicians at the hospital also saw a slight decrease. The hospital now has 30 physicians, not including those on Rota and Tinian as well. That is down from the 33 in July last year.

CHC actually has two other doctors but they are resident doctors from the University of California, San Francisco and are on loan to the local hospital. The funding that the Hillblom Foundation provides to UCSF brings in resident doctors to CHC every month.

CHC now has three OB/GYN, five pediatricians, one gastroenterologist, five in emergency medicine, one in family medicine, one psychiatrist, one nephrologist, one pathologist, three anesthesiologists, seven in internal medicine, and two surgeons.

In an earlier interview, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña said the hospital still needs specialists in orthopedics, cardiology, oncology, and neurosurgery.

Despite the need for more doctors, recruitment is more costly than retention and replacing physicians varies but can cost up to \$50,000 per recruitment.

CHCC hires physicians and nurses mostly from the Philippines, U.S. and locally.

So far, Tudela said that they have six physician assistants, a certified nurse midwife, four midwives, and four nurse practitioners.



# Govt looking at \$134M budget for fiscal 2016

BY JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos will be submitting a \$134-million government budget for fiscal year 2016 to the Legislature on April 1—the same amount as last year's.

Press secretary Ivan Blanco said the draft budget proposal is now ready for transmittal.

He confirmed that Inos will be submitting the budget on April 1, as mandated by law. It will cover government operations from Oct. 1, 2015, to Sept. 30, 2016.

"We have yet to determine where to allocate the budget surplus we had last year. But this will be allocated somewhere," Blanco added.

He did not divulge any more

details of the budget.

The government budget was discussed about two weeks ago in a leadership meeting Inos initiated with members of the Legislature on Capital Hill.

Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Saipan) earlier said the governor is asking for "cooperation" with lawmakers on various issues including the government

budget for next year. He earlier said there might be a "slight" difference in the budget for 2016 compared to 2015.

The government's budget in fiscal 2012 was \$102 million, which went up to \$135.79 million in 2014 as a result of an approved supplemental budget of over \$12 million. The 2015 budget was slightly lower at \$134 million.

## 'Busy schedule'

Blanco, meanwhile, said the governor is swamped with work. He added that Inos "is fine" but has a busy schedule in the last few weeks.

Aside from budget concerns, the governor is also set to review the recently approved casino regulations, which is now with Attorney General Edward

Manibusan, Blanco said.

On top of this, the governor is also looking at a number of pending government appointments.

Questions on the governor's health have resurfaced recently. Inos was not able to attend an important conference in the U.S. mainland, sending instead Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres to represent the CNMI.

# Cooking up a storm on Hawaii TV



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
KC Lynn T. Barcinas, 18, prepares a meal during one of the Hawaii Job Corps' training sessions.

By THOMAS MANGLONA II  
CORRESPONDENT

## » Rota's Barcinas takes it to the kitchen

Eighteen-year-old KC Lynn T. Barcinas is pursuing her dream of becoming a professional chef. The Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. & Sr. High School 2014 alumna is enrolled in the Hawaii Job Corps two-year program at the Waimanalo Campus on Oahu island.

The Tinian-born, Rota-bred student is taking culinary trade classes, where she is learning French cooking terminology and the basics of cooking and baking.

Barcinas was recently invited

to cook with veteran chefs on a local Hawaiian food show to be hosted at the Ala Moana Hotel. There, she will whip up her favorite food and desserts and sell her dishes to restaurant owners. The goal of the food show is to find something new

and exciting for the food industry, according to Barcinas.

"I am pursuing this because I believe cooking is one of my many passions," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She explained that she knew she wanted to pursue a career in culinary arts after preparing meals for her elders and young-cousins at home.

"Hearing them say it is delicious and that my cooking made them smile just made me happy."

Barcinas attributes her suc-

cess to her mother, Lucinda. "I believe she is one of the reason why I love cooking. She makes the best home cooked food."

She aspires to open her own restaurant one day, and making

her mom's dream of opening a wine cellar come true.

"I have a long way to go until I can accomplish that but I'm ambitious to make my dream a reality," she said.

She urges her peers to never settle for less and to pursue their dreams fervently. "You can't be successful if you don't fall. If you truly want it, you have to decide for yourself the sacrifices you need to make in order to get to the point of where you want to set yourself into."

After completing her train-

ing with the Hawaii Job Corps, Barcinas plans to attend another prestigious and rigorous culinary program in Treasure Island, California.

Barcinas hopes to one day cook "Ala'guan Aguaf," a Chamorro dish, in the mainland for people to indulge in before she returns to the islands.

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# Mariana Resort and Spa looks back on 37 years

A series of festivities usher in Mariana Resort and Spa's 37th year on Saipan. This year's celebration, according to general manager Gloria Cavanaugh, focuses on community involvement, something the resort's owners, the Kitami family, have been committed throughout the years.

"We try to assist the community whenever possible," Cavanaugh told *Saipan Tribune*.

This year's anniversary celebrations include restaurant, spa, and go kart promotions. These are highlighted by the first-ever Marpi Carnival on April 11 and a golf tournament the next day.

Excellent raffles, music festivities, water dunks, food,

and fun will abound during these days, but the celebration would go for naught if the resort's commitment to persevere with the CNMI through its ups and downs isn't also noted.

This year's proceeds will go to the Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc., but the resort's commitment to the island they consider their home goes far back, says Cavanaugh, to as far back as 1978 during the U.S. Trust Territory days when Saipan visitor arrivals totaled 86,708. Japanese visitors made up 58,812, U.S., 24,901 and others, 2,995.

Drawing on facts she gleaned from her father, a Department of the Interior auditor who traveled weekly to Saipan, she said this dealt

a lot with issues involving the department.

But for all the Japanese investors who arrived on the shores of the CNMI in the early 1980s, the Kitami family is the only one who made it their home, she claimed.

"They arrived and invested before it became popular to do so by opening its first nine holes [of the 18-hole golf course] in February of 1980," she said.

Also, in the 1980s, according to the provisions of their lease, 50 cottages, two baseball fields, and an Olympic-size pool were constructed.

"With its moderate hotel facility, the opening of the first

golf course opened up Saipan as a major tourist destination, especially from Japan," Cavanaugh said. "The golfing activities, which our development offered greatly assisted the success of major hotels on Saipan to attract tourists."

When Japan's financial bubble burst in the 1990s, the Kitami family "answered back" with the start and completion of their Reefside Hotel in 1996, and the opening of another tourism attraction, the Go-Kart Race Track.

And with the tourism woes in the 2000s, the Kitami family answered again with the construction of the CNMI's first spa

facility in 2001.

"As of today, it is still the only spa facility of its kind in the area," she said. "In 2004, the Mandi Asian Spa facility was further renovated and extended. In 2007, the original 50 cottages were fully renovated into Bali-style villas. In 2009, we added our driving range."

"Most recently, the Kitami family opened Mariana Ocean that provides visitors and locals with island-made body products," Cavanaugh said.

Over the past 37 years, Kan Pacific Saipan, which owns the resort, has supported too many organizations to name. When asked, Cavanaugh attempted to make a list that included more than 18 private and public schools and educational institutions.

The resort has sponsored the annual Attorney General's Cup Competition, High School Mock Trial Competition, and the CNMI Public School System Spelling Bee Competition.

She also noted nearly 40 non-profit, private, and public organizations and associations that they've helped that include the Commonwealth Cancer Association, Division of Youth Services, United Filipino Organizations, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Korean Community of Saipan, CNMI Liberation Day Committee, Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, Marianas Tourism Education Council, Saipan Paddling Club, Saipan Fishermen's Association, and CNMI Nursing Association, among many others.

They also supported Nuestra Senora Dela Soledad Parish, Santa Remedios Parish, San Jose Catholic Church, San Roque Parish, and San Antonio Church.

"For the last two years, we have been providing the water at no charge to the Department of Parks and Rec[reation] for the restrooms of the northern sites," Cavanaugh said.

"We hope that the future will allow us to continue our presence in Saipan. We are a responsible corporate partner with the CNMI. We have always been current with our lease payments, taxes, and all financial responsibilities. We have never asked for any abatement of taxes or reductions of lease payments."

## Festivities and promos

Promotions this April each cost \$37 (because of their 37th anniversary). Promos showcase the whole resort property like the 12th Night Restaurant, Mandi Asian Spa, Mariana Seaside Circuit (go karts), or their Mariana Country Club.

"Last year for our 36th anniversary we had tremendous response from our local customers. We expect the same," Cavanaugh said.

"Last year we had a very big

party and a no-charge, invitation-only golf tournament to celebrate our 36th anniversary. This year we wanted to focus on community involvement."

On April 11, the resort hosts its Marpi Carnival and Battle of the Bands. They will be charging \$50 per cover booth and \$25 for uncovered booth.

The entry of the Battle of the Bands is only \$20, with prizes of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 for first, second, and third place, respectively. The entry fee and the net amount for the booths will be donated to the local Little League organization.

Each booth will be either games or food sponsored by a nonprofit organization. Minus the booth charge, 100 percent of the money raised at these booths will be kept by the prospective organizations.

So far, the organizations participating in the booths are Santa Remedios Parish, Talaabwogh Stars, HANMI, NSA & SPARC, Hula Girl, DPS, SSHS Class of '85, Pentecostal Church, Saipan Little League, and Ol' Aces. But space is still available. For the Battle of the Bands, five bands are confirmed and two pending.

At the same time, HANMI will be hosting their third annual Go Kart Race. Title sponsors are Monster Energy Drink and Miller Light. Mobil is a major sponsor. Event sponsors include Delta Airlines and G4S. Supporting sponsors are Click it or Ticket, Island Apparel, Power 99, Pacifica Insurance, Triple J, and DFS.

HANMI will be holding a raffle where you can win lunches, dinners, room nights and activities, donated by the HANMI hotel members, as well as prizes donated by a lists of supporters including Tropical Laundry, Pacifica Insurance, Godfather's Bar, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Star Sands, National Office Supply, Let's Go, Shirley's Restaurant, and Sablan Topline. The grand prize, donated by Delta Air Lines, are two round-trip tickets to Japan.

In addition to the April 11 festivities, the resort holds its 37th Anniversary Golf Tournament on April 12 at Mariana Country Club. The entry fee is \$80 per person. Net proceeds will go to the SLLBI. At the banquet the Little League will be holding an excellent raffle.

The sponsors for the tournament are Delta Air Lines, Mobil, IT&E, Takagi Insurance, Docomo, Fiesta Resort, Hyatt, PIC, Laolao Golf Resort, Kautz Glass, Pacific Trading Co., Asiana Airlines, Marpac, Coca Cola, Aqua Resort, QQ Car Rental, Century Hotel, DFS (Tournament of Champions), D&Q, Nike Golf, Pacifica Insurance, David Cepeda, Tropical Laundry, Joeten Motors, Alex Aquiningoc, Korea Hardware, Grandvrio Resort, Kanoa Resort, and Island Apparel. (*Saipan Tribune*)

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## PATA Micronesia to hold Chapter meeting in RMI

**TUMON, Guam**—The 1<sup>st</sup> Tri-Annual Meeting of the PATA Micronesia Chapter will be held on April 6-9, 2015, on the island of Majuro in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

PATA is a membership association acting as a catalyst for the responsible development of the Asia Pacific travel and tourism industry. The PATA Micronesia Chapter consists of members from the Micronesia region directly in the tourism industry, including national and state tourism offices. In partnership with PATA's private and public sector members, the organization enhances the sustainable growth, value and quality of travel and tourism to, from, and within the region. The PATA Micronesia Chapter conducts regular meetings tri-annually in the region.

"We are very excited to hold our first Tri-Annual General Membership meeting this year

in the Marshall Islands under our new leadership elected in December last year and to work on our new programs and promotions for the region," said Pilar Laguana, PATA Micronesia Chapter chairwoman. "We warmly welcome new members from throughout the region who want to partner together in marketing the Micronesia region as a leisure travel destination."

The host island assists the chapter with logistics, meeting venues, networking meetings, training sessions, product tours, and an arranged courtesy visit to the president or governor of the respective island with the chapter's executive members. The preceding days include auxiliary committee meetings of the Education, Membership, Marketing and Executive Committee and concludes with the Annual General Membership meeting.


The Micronesia Cruise Association also normally holds their meetings the same time as the PATA chapter meetings.

Those who are interested in membership may apply by contacting the Membership Committee co-chairs Sam Scott at [sam@samtours.com](mailto:sam@samtours.com) or Barbara Taitano at [mysticaltaguam@gmail.com](mailto:mysticaltaguam@gmail.com). We encourage 2014 members to renew their membership for 2015 by contacting PATA treasurer Judy C. Torres at [judyctorres@mymarianas.com](mailto:judyctorres@mymarianas.com). A PATA travel rate to the RMI will be extended to chapter members in good standing.

For more information on PATA, contact chair Pilar Laguana at [pilar.laguana@visit-guam.org](mailto:pilar.laguana@visit-guam.org) or visit [www.micronesiatour.com](http://www.micronesiatour.com).

The Micronesian chapter of the Pacific Asia Travel Association was established 1986. (PATA)

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# Alleged 'ice' supplier withdraws bid for competency hearing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Yu Hua Wang, the alleged second in command of an organization of drug suppliers on Saipan who claims to be suffering from a brain injury, has withdrawn his motion for a hearing to determine his competency to stand trial.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, the court-appointed counsel for Wang, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday that after reviewing the forensic evaluation report and consulting with Wang, the defense would not be proceeding with the competency hearing.

Torres told the court that Wang understands the nature of the proceedings.

Torres said he believes the report is thorough and that it does address his concerns regarding his client.

The forensic evaluation report was filed under seal.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set Wang's jury trial for April 7, 2015, at 10am.

Torres said the parties would request to move the trial date and that Wang would be filing a waiver of his right to a speedy trial.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton appeared for the U.S.

government at the hearing.

Last October, Manglona ordered a psychiatric evaluation of Wang after Torres asked that his client be placed in a Bureau of Prisons facility for further examination.

Naughton did not object to Torres' request for further examination and joined in the recommendation that Wang be referred off-island.

Torres had disclosed that, according to the three psychiatric reports by Dr. Laura Post, the doctor was unable to make a determination and that it was an inconclusive finding.

Torres said from reading Post's reports, he was even more concerned with Wang's ability to assist him.

In Wang's previous request for a competency examination, Torres said that Wang has been complaining of severe headaches and pain while in detention, affecting his understanding of documents that were being reviewed with him by his lawyer.

Torres said Wang's pretrial services evaluation indicates a traumatic brain injury from an assault several years ago.

Wang was among seven persons arrested in February 2014 for alleged "ice" distribution. Except Wang, all pleaded guilty.

## StayWell promotes and rehires

**HAGÁTÑA, Guam**—

Chen Y. Mack, president and CEO of StayWell Insurance, recently announced the promotion of Dr. Anthony Mendiola from director of Provider Relations and Health Management to vice president of Medical Management. In his new capacity, Mendiola will manage utilization management, health management, provider relations, and medical claims.

Mendiola has been with StayWell for 14 years and has been integrally involved in the development of StayWell as a leading insurance carrier.

"Dr. Mendiola is an important leader in our company and we are fortunate to have him on the team. He ensures our medical management program is innovative and is in alignment with the needs of our members," said Mack.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to work at StayWell and provide the highest level of care and service to our members. Being part of the StayWell family is motivating and gratifying.



Mendiola



Shimizu



Sablan

Our organization is completely dedicated to caring for the people of Guam," said Mendiola.

In addition to Mendiola's promotion, the company also announced that Dafne Shimizu has rejoined StayWell as vice president of Finance. Also returning to the company is Maureen Tellei Sablan as vice president of Business Development.

Shimizu said, "I am proud to be a part of an organization that is as financially strong as StayWell. The reinsurer of the company has an A+ rating from A.M. Best, a respected financial rating service for the insurance industry."

Sablan added: "The new direction of the company as well as its plans and vision for the future is what brought me back. StayWell has been a successful business [in] Guam for over two decades and it has an outstanding team that delivers service beyond expectation." (StayWell)



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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Tragedy must redouble quest to make air travel ever safer

**A** locked cockpit door, a commonsense post-9/11 security measure, gave the co-pilot of Germanwings Flight 9525 all the time he needed to deliberately crash the aircraft in the French Alps, killing all 150 people on board.

As the plane descended, the pilot, who had apparently taken a bathroom break, can be heard on the cockpit voice recorder frantically pounding on the door and begging co-pilot Andreas Lubitz to let him back in. His pleas were accompanied by chilling screams in the final moments before the plane, en route from Barcelona to Dusseldorf, slammed into the remote mountains.

The stunning crash, already being called a mass murder, raises urgent questions about how cockpit doors can be secured to keep terrorists out, while allowing intentionally locked-out crew members to get back in. The Federal Aviation Administration requires an electronic keypad in the cabin that can briefly unlock the door. But a person in the cockpit can override that system.

One obvious measure to consider is wider international adoption of the U.S. standard that requires at least two people in the cockpit at all times. Another is seeking to develop systems that somehow allow a flight crew to open the door after keypad access is blocked—difficult to do without compromising security if there are terrorists on board.

Live-streaming video from the cockpit could help alert air controllers when there is a problem. And it would be prudent to consider requiring pilots to routinely undergo a psychological assessment as part of medical exams required annually for those younger than 40 and twice a year for those 40 and older. Currently, pilots answer questions about their mental health on medical forms, and additional testing can be required if examiners think it's warranted.

Flying is a remarkably safe way to travel. That's in part because every tragedy is intensively investigated to determine what went wrong and how to avoid a repeat.

But nothing can make flying risk free. And the cost-benefit of new equipment or procedures is always a factor. Here, a measure taken to thwart terrorists may have cost lives because of the actions of a suicidal co-pilot.

(c)2015 Newsday



## Lee Kuan Yew was a grand master of int'l strategy

**L**ee Kuan Yew, the former prime minister of Singapore who died Monday, was more than his country's founding father. Not only did he raise a poor, notoriously corrupt port from the bottom rungs of the Third World to a modern First World nation in a single generation, but he was also one of two certifiable grand masters of international strategy in the last half century (Henry Kissinger being the other).

No one outside China had such a profound influence on that country's meteoric rise to become the second-largest economy in the world. No one outside the U.S. has had greater impact on U.S. policy toward a rising China, from Richard Nixon and Kissinger's opening to Mao Tse-tung in the early 1970s to President Barack Obama's "pivot" to Asia. And when it comes to helping other national economies actually grow and lift millions of citizens from abject poverty, it is difficult to identify anyone whose words and actions in demonstrating what competent, clean, determined leadership can do have had more impact.

Amid the flurry of words about Lee Kuan Yew, much more interesting and instructive are the words of Lee Kuan Yew. For that reason my colleague Robert Blackwill and I published a book two years ago titled "Lee Kuan Yew: The Grand Master's Insights on China, the United States, and the World." I recommend it as a "great book" without embarrassment—because all we did was pose the questions we think most internationally minded people would find most interesting. Ninety-five percent of the words in the book are Lee's answers.

Lee was the world's premier China watcher. Every Chinese leader since Deng Xiaoping, including current President Xi Jinping, have called him "mentor." For anyone interested in where China has come from or where it is heading, his insights offer the best guidance available.

We asked Lee whether China's current leaders are serious about displacing the U.S. as the No. 1 power in Asia in the foreseeable future. He answered: "Of course. Why not? How could they not aspire to be No. 1 in Asia and, in time, the world?" Moreover, while recognizing that past performance is no guarantee of future results, he put the odds of China's success in this quest at 4 in 5. To the question of whether the U.S. could stop China's rise, he replied, "No. It will just have to live with a bigger China, which will be completely novel for the U.S., since no country has ever been big enough to challenge its position." But in the case of China, as he frequently said, it is "the biggest player in the history of the world."

**By GRAHAM ALLISON**  
Los Angeles Times

Graham Allison is director of Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and coauthor of Lee Kuan Yew: The Grand Master's Insights On China, the United States, and the World. Allison wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



On the other hand, he was never pessimistic about the United States. I recall several conversations in which the topic was whether the U.S. was in "systemic decline." On one occasion, about two or three years ago, I asked him: If the U.S. were a stock, should we sell it short? He answered immediately: "Absolutely not." He believed that the U.S. was going through a bumpy patch with deficits, debt and a dysfunctional capital. But he was counting on Americans recovering our senses as we have done previously, and the country returning to the path that made it great.

Is war between the U.S. and China inevitable, or can they escape the Thucydides Trap? That phrase reminds us of the inescapable structural stress that occurs when a ruling power is challenged by a rising power that threatens to displace it. A century ago, when Germany rose to rival Britain, the result was World War I. Lee recognized the challenge and the risks it entails. But he was always sanguine about leaders' capacity to learn from history, including mistakes made by previous statesmen to find a better way.

Kissinger has had the opportunity to meet virtually every leader in the world over the last half-century. As he attests in the preface to the "Grand Master," the one from whom he learned most was Lee. Kissinger admires most of all Lee's "singular strategic acumen." As many observed, Lee could "see the future." Indeed, in Singapore, he built the future. As mentor to successive Chinese leaders in their fast march to the free market, and every American president since Nixon, his counsel shaped the future. Would-be nation-builders, from Paul Kagame in genocide-ravaged Rwanda to Nursultan Nazarbayev in post-Soviet Kazakhstan to Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj in Mongolia, have not just read his writings, but also repeatedly sought guidance from the sage of Singapore.

As we pause to mourn the loss of a great leader, we can be grateful that he has left us so many insights that we can apply across the international agenda today.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Wealth gap in America grows at disturbing pace

People patiently wait for things to get better in America. But the bony hand of the Great Recession appears to keep fingering its way into people's lives. The Pew Research Center last year reported that "the gap between America's upper-income and middle-income families has reached its highest level on record."

The median wealth in 2013 of \$639,400 for upper-income families was nearly seven times the \$96,500 in median wealth of middle-income families. It's the widest gap seen in the 30 years when the Federal Reserve began collecting such data.

"In addition, America's upper-income families have a median net worth that is nearly 70 times that of the country's lower-income families, also the widest wealth gap between these families in 30 years," the Pew center notes.

Wealth is measured in the value of a person's assets such as a home, vehicles and savings minus that individual's debt. Wealth determines whether a family can remain afloat financially in the event of a layoff, hospitalization or some other calamity. Wealth also determines whether a family can afford to send children to college, enjoy travel and other opportunities without taking on enormous debt.

The National Urban League's State of Black America report last week like the Pew study also shows worsening gaps along racial and ethnic lines. The median black household has just 6 cents in wealth and the Latino household 7 cents for every dollar of median white household wealth.

Pew also notes, "The current gap between blacks and whites has reached its highest point since 1989, when whites had 17 times the wealth of black households. The current white-to-Hispanic wealth ratio has reached a level not seen since 2001."

This kind of wealth disparity is damaging to the U.S., not just people of color. That's because of rapid increase in America's minority population.

The Census Bureau reported this month that about the time the 2020 census occurs more than half of the nation's children are expected to be part of a racial or ethnic minority group. They need to be in families, where the breadwinners earn a livable wage and have enough wealth socked away to weather any unexpected financial or medical storm.

The U.S. population of 319 million people is expected to become majority-minority in 2044. If the racial and ethnic wealth disparity continues it will sink America.

Too many families now strapped for cash land at the doorstep of payday loan, title loan and other outfits that charge outrageous interest rates. That makes wealth creation nearly impossible for such things as sending children to college, saving for retirement and passing on an inheritance for future generations—all staples of a rock-solid middle class.

Pew notes that 46 percent of U.S. families in 2013 were classified as middle income, a third were lower income and 21 percent were upper income. "For a family of three in 2013, a household income of \$38,100 qualifies as middle income and \$114,300 or greater qual-

ifies as upper income," the Pew study said.

Upper income families' fortunes have rebounded since the Great Recession. "In 2010, the median wealth of upper-income families was 6.2 times the median wealth of middle-income families. By 2013, that wealth ratio grew to 6.6," the report said.

"The Great Recession destroyed a significant amount of middle-income and lower-income families' wealth, and the economic 'recovery' has yet to be felt for them," the report said.

We are starting to see a rebound with the unemployment rate falling, but many new jobs don't pay as much as those that disappeared. The Great Recession robbed many people of wealth they had in equity in their homes; it took from their retirement savings, eliminated jobs, reduced wages, killed pay increases and interest earnings.

Many still wait, still hope for a recovery that helps everyone, not just the wealthy.



By **LEWIS W. DIUGUID**  
The Kansas City Star

*Lewis W. Diuguid is a member of The Kansas City Star's Editorial Board. Readers may write to him at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by email at Ldiuguid@kcstar.com.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Give medical marijuana a chance, and then...

"Do what you can to help sick people like us from getting worse, or dying, *primo*." This was the plea from a cousin of mine who is a cancer survivor (lungs and stomach) and who uses marijuana, illegally, to treat himself. "Please help to give medical marijuana a chance!" he declared.

Since 1995, I have grown to understand and see the cannabis culture progress with advances in science and technology and the results are extraordinary. As a cannabis advocate, I am obligated to share my knowledge regarding everything I know about cannabis, from its medical and recreational use to its agricultural and industrial applications. Cannabis can save the world. This is a fact. It is considered a miracle plant due to its possible uses in everyday life. From medicine for sickness to its social use with friends, to the food we eat, homes we live in, clothes we wear, fuel for our cars, electricity for our homes, paper we write on, etc. All of these from a single plant. A new age industry in cannabis. This is what the CNMI can prosper from as I wholeheartedly and passionately know what cannabis can do for the CNMI and its people. This can only be done when all the potential uses of cannabis are fully applied to society as a whole. Now, we have an opportunity before us in applying one of the most beneficial attributes of cannabis: medical marijuana. It will be in this regard that we must show our support for the current Senate medical marijuana bill so we as a compassionate society will be able to treat our sick and suffering people, because for some of them time is what they do not have. This is a compassionate bill. This will be our first step toward full legalization. First, let us give medical marijuana a chance to get the mechanics in place so that we will have a starting point that will allow us the chance to gain a better understanding of cannabis and to gauge its acceptability and impacts on our lives and society. Then we will all work together toward cannabis legalization for recreational, agricultural and industrial purposes, all at the same time to fully maximize its potential. Together, we will make this happen.

As for marijuana economics, I stated before that even if all the CNMI people combined were to consume marijuana, it will not justify a huge economic standpoint due to the CNMI's population base. We have to think smarter, not harder to see the opportunities ahead. The CNMI Medical Marijuana Program will eventually, and ultimately, create a new industry in medicine: medical marijuana tourism. This is where our economic potential will begin to be realized in generating revenues for the CNMI. Substantial revenues that may be used to offset medical referral, treatment and rehabilitation costs; education and

scholarship costs; as well as funding special programs for the youth to name a few. There will be tourists from all over the world, particularly Asia, that will specifically visit the CNMI for the sole purpose of medical marijuana treatment. This is not because we will have a strict medical marijuana program. It would be because we will have the friendliest, most effective and possibly the best MMJ program in the world. This is where we will establish our Unique Strategic Advantage to differentiate the CNMI from the competition. These medical marijuana tourists will be receiving their treatment for the duration of their stay (beyond regular vacation time) while at the same time, they enjoy the hospitality of our little paradise with beaches and sunsets, and ultimately, the best experiences of their lives. This in turn will create the multiplier effect in business benefits for all, directly and indirectly.

The World Health Organization stated, "The medical tourism industry has been growing worldwide. It involves about 50 countries in all continents." Thailand is projecting \$3 billion for medical tourism alone. In Colorado, medical marijuana accounts for the majority of total sales compared to recreational marijuana, in which the medical marijuana sector has contributed to the billion dollar tourism industry in 2014. This is evidenced as more people from across the U.S. and the world temporarily move there to take advantage of its friendly medical marijuana program. Marijuana sales in Colorado are projected to hit \$1 billion in 2016. Medical tourism will embrace medical marijuana no matter what, and we will gain extraordinarily. Cannabis is a lucrative business. It is now called "The Green Rush" and everybody is cashing in. George Washington said it best when he declared, "Sow the seeds of hemp everywhere for it is abundant and everyone shall prosper." I could not agree more.

For the past 20 years, I have had a vision of cannabis and everything cannabis. In my world of cannabis, it is part of our everyday life from the moment we wake to the moment we rest. And it is a beautiful world, indeed. First, let us take care of the sick with medical marijuana so they may be able to live longer to see this new industry get started. Then we will push forward with the potentials of recreational, agricultural and industrial legalization. Please support the medical marijuana bill at the upcoming public hearings so we may give the sick and suffering people a second chance to live again. *Biba Marianas!*

**Gerry Palacios Hemley**

*Medical marijuana advocate/representative of patients for MMJ Garapan, Saipan*

## End corporate welfare

Last week, Mr. Antonio Muña, on behalf of Ocean Vista, replied to the testimony I submitted to the Commonwealth Development Authority. Since I was accused of spreading "misinformation," I

thought it was necessary to offer my response to his letter.

Mr. Muña claims that I refer to the QC program as a tax loophole. Not once have I ever alluded to the QC as a tax loophole. In effect, the QC program is corporate welfare. It presumes that companies can't survive or aren't able to make a profit without it. This is exactly the case with Ocean Vista. It was Ocean Vista itself that forecasted that without 25 years of tax abatement, it stands to lose \$711,000. Those were his figures. Not mine. In addition, the law that he was quoting was established 15 years ago when Saipan was experiencing the effects of the Asian financial crisis. Times have changed and it goes to show how outdated this law is.

I did not intend to mislead with Ocean Vista's leasehold. I received my information from government sources and I apologize if I was misinformed in this regard. This demonstrates the confusion that is circulating within the government.

Mr. Muña listed several risks to Ocean Vista's investors that are associated with operating their business, but what he's really saying is that he wants the people of the CNMI to hedge those risks for Ocean Vista. I should remind him that hundreds of businesses already in the CNMI face these risks head on. We adjust our business models to cope with economic realities.

It is predictable that a company applying for the QC would tout the "economic multiplier effect." Let me be clear: 100 percent of companies on island engage in commerce with other companies on island. It's a part of doing business here. No company on island can provide all of its products and services on its own. We are all part of the economic multiplier effect and we all pay taxes. Also, correct me if I'm wrong, but the Hotel Occupancy Tax is directly earmarked for MVA and other tourism related activities. Therefore, other public agencies like Public Health and Public Safety do no benefit from this tax.

Ocean Vista says that it "will have to pay for improved traffic development at its entrance plus upgrade water supply and sewer lines," but again, these are development costs generally covered by developers anyway. Our people should be concerned with whether Ocean Vista will be paying the taxes to help maintain these and other public infrastructure that will benefit everyone, not just their own interests.

Mr. Muña is correct to imply that the QC program is a legal program, but we should ask ourselves if it is fair to taxpayers. I understand that the incentives are not guaranteed simply by filing an application, but the issue of corporate welfare still remains because of the unfair advantage the QC program allows. We encourage Ocean Vista to invest and develop here but not in this manner or at the expense of the people of the CNMI.

I would like to call upon all taxpaying citizens to take a stand and end corporate welfare.

**Bo Palacios**

*Business Development Manager  
JC Tenorio Enterprises*



# The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 25 mph.

▲85° ▼74°

WEDNESDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲86° ▼74°

THURSDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼74°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

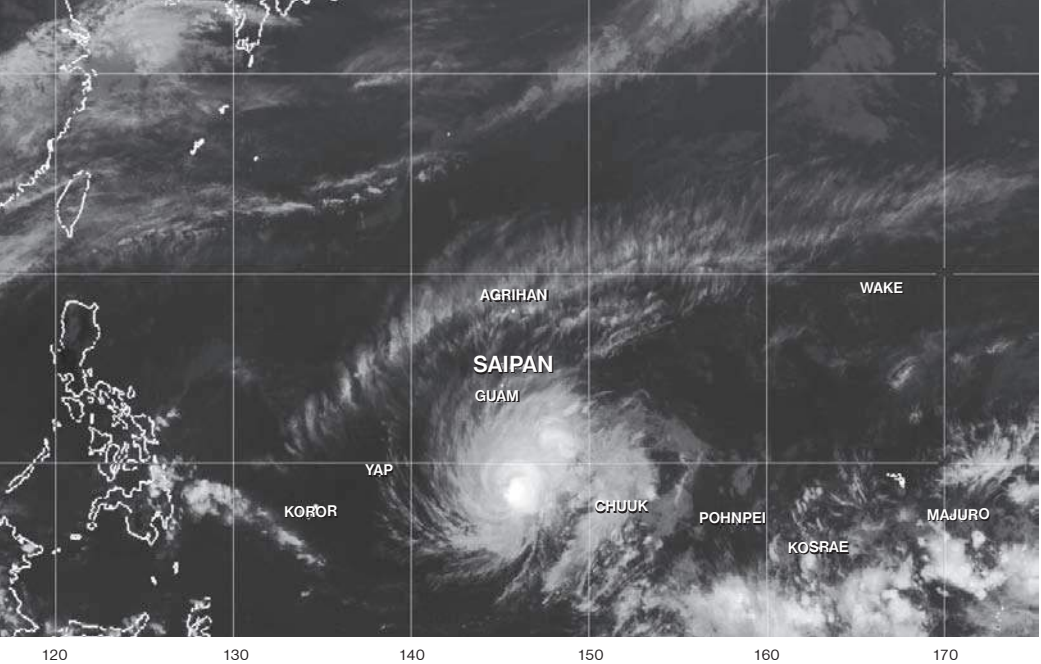
▲86° ▼74°

SUNDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼74°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Maysak (04W) east of Yap centered at 8N147E has maximum sustained winds of 100 mph, moving westward at 16 mph. Heavy rain and scattered thunderstorms are within 100 miles of the center. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms extend farther outward up to 250 miles from the center and across Chuuk state within 100 miles of a line from 11N151E to 7N153E to 3N149E. For more information on Typhoon Maysak, see warnings issued by The Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by The National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are south of Kosrae and Pohnpei along the equator south of 2N from 155E to 167E. Trade-wind convergence across the Marshall Islands is helping to trigger scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in patchy areas between 10N and the equator from 167E to 180E. A shear line runs southwestward from 26N180E to just north of Wake Island at 20N167E to end west of Saipan near 15N143E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 250 miles northwest of the shear line. A cold front extends southwestward from west of Iwo To Island at 25N140E to about 20N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 100 miles northwest of the front.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼82

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼57
Beijing	Showers	▲60	▼42
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼69
Honolulu	Showers	▲83	▼70
London	Showers	▲53	▼51
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲82	▼58
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲83	▼60
Miami	Sunny	▲79	▼63
New York	Cloudy	▲56	▼37
Osaka	Sunny	▲71	▼57
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼37
Pusan	Showers	▲64	▼53
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼52
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼46
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼53
Seoul	Showers	▲64	▼49
Tokyo	Windy	▲70	▼54
Washington, DC	Showers	▲62	▼40

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:50 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
6:07 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:14 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:14 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:13 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:12 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	3:13 PM	3:14 A M
Wednesday	4:00 PM	3:54 AM
Thursday	4:46 PM	4:33 AM
Friday	5:33 PM	5:11 AM
Saturday	6:20 PM	5:49 AM

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						
			ROTA TO SAIPAN					
			DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY			
			8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat			
			4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat			



## Small craft advisory in effect

Fresh to strong trade winds and combined seas building to 9 to 11 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through Wednesday, according to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, citing data from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam.

The northern fringe of Typhoon Maysak will generate

scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms through Tuesday night.

A small craft advisory is now in effect until 6am Wednesday.

East to northeast winds at 20 to 25 knots and combined seas of 10 and 12 feet are expected through Tuesday. Winds will diminish starting Tuesday afternoon but seas are not expected to subside below 10

feet until Wednesday.

The public is being urged to avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. A small craft advisory means that wind speeds of 21 to 33 knots are expected to produce wave conditions hazardous to small craft. **(HSEM)**

## Donations for relief efforts to help those affected by Typhoon Maysak

The Office of Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, working in conjunction with the Office of the Consul General of the Federated States of Micronesia, is accepting donations for victims of Typhoon Maysak, which struck the islands of Chuuk yesterday

afternoon and continues to make its way through Micronesia. Donations of clothing, household goods, nonperishable food items and monetary donations are being accepted at the Office of Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, in the DNA Building Suite 407, 238

Archbishop Flores St., Hagatna Guam. If you are unable to drop off your donation to the office, call the 472-6453 and we can pick up your donation. T'Nelta Mori, executive secretary for Senator San Nicolas, will be coordinating efforts. **(PR)**



### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Donations sought for UFO Good Friday service

The United Filipino Organizations will be conducting its annual community service to all Mt. Tapochau devotees on Good Friday, April 3, 2015. As in the past years, UFO will be serving free food and water to all individual along the route going up to the Mt. Tapochau summit. UFO is now accepting in-kind donations like disposable cups, spoons, plates, trash bags, bottled water, candies, eggs, among others. During the events, UFO will also accept membership application for the "Bantay-Kapwa" project (Helping-Hand project) at the site. If you want to donate, contact UFO secretariat Pete Reyes at 989-7317 or UFO president Bong Malasarte at 287-5525. **(UFO)**

#### Transfer station, Marpi landfill closed Friday

The Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill will be closed on Friday, April 3, 2015, in observance of Good Friday. Regular schedule will resume on Saturday, April 4, 2015, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4pm. **(DPW)**

#### Jury selection cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "14NS" that the jury selection scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2015, at 8:30am in Courtroom 220A is hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, contact Deputy Clerk Daisy Mendiola at Superior Court at 236-9769. **(NMI Judiciary)**

#### Notice to all Prior Service beneficiaries

All Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries whose monthly benefit checks are allotted to Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii,

Back of Saipan, First Hawaiian Bank, Forcht Bank-(Somerset KY), and Wells Fargo Bank-(Lynnwood, WA):

In order to fulfill the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs' requirement to provide the continuation of funding to Prior Service and to confirm the continuing eligibility of its beneficiaries, you are required to complete a questionnaire and return it to us within 30 days upon receipt. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the suspension of benefits.

Stop by our office to pick up a questionnaire or call to inform us of your Post Office mailing address so we can mail it to you. Our office's physical location is at Quarters No. 1201, Isleta Court, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. If you have any questions, call our office at (670) 322-9753 from 8am to 12pm and from 1pm to 4:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. **(PSTF)**

#### Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on March 30, from 8am to 4pm. The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on March 31, from 10am to 3pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the areas during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a

10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. **(PR)**

#### KHS to host Jam Session

Kagman High School invites the community to come and enjoy their annual Jam Session on Wednesday, April 1, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Ayuyu Café. See our talented students perform and rock the beat on stage! **(PR)**



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# Beautify My Marianas just keeps growing

The Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program continues to draw more participants, sparking a grassroots interest in participating in the tourism industry. So far this fiscal year, 53 groups have participated in the program, which offers \$100 for each 1-mile cleanup in assigned areas. Nearly 18,400 lbs. of trash and debris have been collected.

"We talk about how 'tourism is everybody's business,' and Beautify My Marianas is allowing more individuals and groups to become a part of that business," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Dueñas. "The program is just a small part of the successful application of destination enhancement funds now underway, and we're encouraged to see the strong community support."

Recent groups include the Hopwood Junior High School Simiyan Lina'la' Club, whose 24 volunteers and five advisers cleaned from Sugar Dock to Oleai Beach on Feb. 27, 2015.

"Not only [are we] fundraising for our club, but we enjoyed beautifying our island," said the group in their post-cleanup report.

The Northern Marianas College Palauan Club also took part, its 10 volunteers collecting 500 lbs of trash on March 7, 2015.

"We had about five trash bags full of trash [at Tank Beach], ranging from beer cans to household trash," said the group in their report. "At the Marine Beach...some of us went down the beach, while

some of us cleaned around the pavilions and to the north

camping site. [A] majority of the trash were around the pa-

vilions and in the bushes."

The Marianas High School

senior class graduation committee cleaned along the

beach in Susupe on March 14 to raise money for their graduation this year.

"We have seen headlines of other organizations taking part in this program. This program not only beautifies our island, but as students we are able to interact with each other while doing something that benefits our island and our school," said the committee in their report. "The senior class has a set of goal for \$2,000. This Beautify My Marianas program will help us achieve our set goal. ...We would like to thank Marianas Visitors Authority for allowing us to be a part of this program."

For more information on Beautify My Marianas or an application, visit the MVA homepage at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com). Groups must apply to participate and document their cleanup with a written report, list of participants, and photos. (MVA)



The Hopwood Middle School Simiyan Lina'la' Club collected trash on Feb. 27, 2015, from Sugar Dock to Oleai Beach on Saipan as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Northern Marianas College Palauan Club collected 500 lbs of trash on March 7, 2015, at Tank Beach and Marine Beach as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Guam airmen to deploy to Afghanistan

**HAGATNA, Guam (AP)**—Officials say nearly 100 Guam Air National Guard members will be deployed to Afghanistan in the fall.

Guam newspaper, the *Pacific Daily News*, reports the Air Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron has received an alert order for the deployment.

The island's single largest deployment to Afghanistan wrapped up more than a year ago when Guam welcomed home almost 600 Guard members.

In 2012, Red Horse Squadron members also served in Afghanistan.

Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, the Guam National Guard's retiring adjutant general, says members of the Guard's 254th Security Forces Squadron and a support squadron are still serving in deployments to undisclosed Southwest Asia locations.



The Marianas High School senior class graduation committee collected trash on March 14, 2015, in Susupe, Saipan as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program. The committee is raising funds for decorations, water, and other needs at this year's graduation. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Business

## Don't let job-seeking frustrations boil over

### YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

**Q: I am sick and tired of being abused by interviewers who are neither courteous, respectful or kind. Many of them never look at my resume until I arrive, then proceed to inform me that the job requires some skill which I don't even possess. I have been stared at to the point of discomfort, told that my past jobs were inadequate and advised to pursue a different line of work.**

**I have now started shutting down this negativity as soon as it occurs. When a hiring manager or human resources representative treats me rudely, I immediately let them know that I am blacklisting them. Employers looking for their next victim had better watch out, because I will no longer be anyone's punching bag.**

**A:** Many people can undoubtedly identify with your annoyance and exasperation. By definition, job-seeking is a highly frustrating process in which employers have all the power. Applicants not only feel completely out of control, but also experience constant rejection until someone finally hires them.

Unfortunately, however, the real problem occurs when frustration grows into outright anger. Conveying these negative feelings during the interview process inevitably creates a self-fulfilling prophecy—that is, applicants who are angry about being rejected start getting rejected because they seem angry.

The challenge for job-seekers, therefore, is to develop some effective strategies for managing stress. Otherwise, they may engage in self-defeating behaviors simply to make themselves feel better. In your case, for example, confronting rude interviewers might be emotionally rewarding, but it will kill your chances of becoming employed.

To have any hope of ending this unwelcome job search, you will need to find another outlet for your angry feelings. Then, when talking with interviewers, you must put on your “game face” and present yourself as the nice, friendly person that everyone loves to hire.

**Q: Shortly after I took this job, my supervisor asked to borrow \$50. Ever since then, he has made excuses for not paying me back, like forgetting to stop by the bank or finding the ATM out of service. Now he has asked for another \$250 to get his car fixed.**

**Because this man is my**

**boss, his requests make me very uncomfortable. I recently learned that he has asked people throughout the company for loans and never repaid them. Do you think I should tell someone about this?**

**A:** Supervisors should never ask employees for money in any form. This blanket prohibition includes not only personal loans, but also solicitations for their favorite charity or requests to buy Girl Scout cookies. The reason is simple: when these appeals come from the boss, staff members don't feel free to refuse.

Since there is safety in numbers, recruit some other victims of this loan scam and go as a group to your human resources manager. Hopefully, that will solve the problem. But if not, just respond to any future requests by saying, “I'm sorry, but I don't have extra money right now.” If you keep this up, your impoverished boss will eventually seek out more lucrative prospects.

**Q: I left my last job on very bad terms, but found a new position six months ago. I plan to look for another job after I have been in this one for a year, so I'm concerned about reference checks with my previous employer.**

**Even though all reference inquiries are supposed to be routed to human resources, someone might still be able to contact my former managers, who would not have good things to say about me. How should I handle this?**

**A:** Prospective employers are likely to be most interested in your recent work experience. Therefore, the best way to combat negative reviews from previous managers is to develop a stellar reputation in your current company.

Creating a positive track record takes time, however, so I am completely baffled by your plan to hop back into the job market after only one year. Quitting your current position so soon could cause interviewers to question your stability and examine more closely your departure from the last company.

But an even greater concern is that you might be repeating a self-destructive pattern. If your reasons for leaving this job bear any resemblance to your previous issues with management, then you may simply be carrying these problems with you from one job to another.

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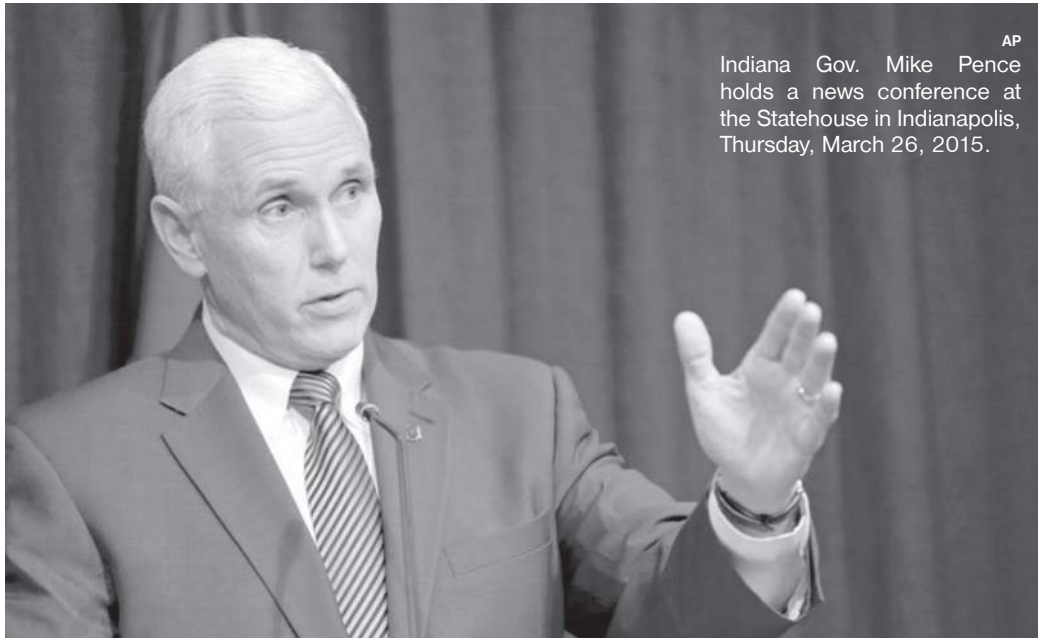
# Nation

## Indiana governor: New law 'not about discrimination'

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Indiana Gov. Mike Pence defended the new state law that's garnered widespread criticism over concerns it could foster discrimination against gays and lesbians and said Sunday it wasn't a mistake to have enacted it.

Pence appeared on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" to discuss the measure he signed last week prohibiting state laws that "substantially burden" a person's ability to follow his or her religious beliefs. The definition of "person" includes religious institutions, businesses and associations.

Since the Republican governor signed the bill into law Thursday, Indiana has been widely criticized by businesses and organizations around the nation, as well as on social media with the hashtag #boycottindiana. Already, consumer review service Angie's List has



AP  
Indiana Gov. Mike Pence holds a news conference at the Statehouse in Indianapolis, Thursday, March 26, 2015.

said it will suspend a planned expansion in Indianapolis because of the new law.

Pence did not answer directly when asked at least six times whether under the law it would be legal for a merchant to refuse

to serve gay customers. "This is not about discrimination, this is about empowering people to confront government overreach," he said. Asked again, he said, "Look, the issue here is still is tolerance a two-way

street or not."

Sexual orientation is not covered under Indiana's civil rights law. Pence has said he "won't be pursuing that."

The governor told the Indianapolis Star on Saturday that he was in discussions with legislative leaders over the weekend and expects a clarification bill to be introduced in the coming week. He addressed that Sunday, saying, "if the General Assembly ... sends me a bill that adds a section that reiterates and amplifies and clarifies what the law really is and what it has been for the last 20 years, then I'm open to that."

But Pence was adamant that

the measure, slated to take effect in July, will stick. "We're not going to change this law," he said.

House GOP caucus spokeswoman Tory Flynn referred questions about those discussions and possible language to the governor's office; it didn't respond to a request for comment Sunday.

Some national gay-rights groups say it's a way for lawmakers in Indiana and several other states where such bills have been proposed this year to essentially grant a state-sanctioned waiver for discrimination as the nation's highest court prepares to mull the gay marriage question.

## Drownings along Rio Grande spike after enforcement surge

MISSION, Texas (AP)—A U.S. surveillance helicopter hovering over the Rio Grande spots a body floating near a muddy bank on the Mexican side of the river.

Soon another body turns up, then another. A Mexican investigator arrives and holds up his hand confirming the grim tally: four men and a woman.

The grisly discovery last month is part of a spike in drownings since October. Immigrants, desperate to avoid detection at a time of increased patrols, are choosing more dangerous and remote crossings into South Texas. The Border Patrol has responded by expanding its search-and-rescue teams to monitor the area, particularly weed-choked irrigation canals where many of the bod-

ies are being found.

"The canals and areas of the river they are trying to traverse, they typically weren't trying to go across before," said Raul L. Ortiz, deputy chief of Rio Grande Valley sector.

Encompassing some 320 miles of river, his sector has already seen at least 16 drownings in nearly six months, nearly a third of them in the canals. The tally is only five short of the number of deaths reported from October 2013 to September, when a historic surge of immigrant women and children were crossing into South Texas. Though illegal crossings have decreased dramatically from last summer, more law enforcement officials are patrolling the border to deter another wave of immigrants.

Many of the bodies are being

discovered just southwest of Mission, where the fire department's dive-and-rescue team has had a busy winter. In January and February alone, it recovered at least six bodies in the murky canals.

"It used to be one a month," Mission Fire Chief Rene Lopez Jr. said. "Now it's one a week."

Some canals are 50 feet wide with steep brush-covered embankments that make it hard to climb out. The waters look deceptively calm but currents run through them, and swimmers often get caught in hydrilla, an invasive water plant, or debris such as shopping carts and tires.

"They get tied down and it's hard to get away from that in black water," said Capt. Joel Dominguez, part of the rescue team. "And they are often panicking, running from agents."

## Official: 2 found dead in rubble believed to be missing men

NEW YORK (AP)—Two bodies were found Sunday amid rubble from the Manhattan apartment building collapse three days earlier and authorities said everyone was accounted for since the apparent gas explosion that caused a massive fire and altogether leveled three buildings and damaged a fourth.

Authorities had been looking for signs of two missing men since Thursday's explosion, in which 22 people were injured, including four critically. Officials suspect someone may have improperly tapped a gas line serving one of the buildings.

During their search, authorities said they believed the missing men had been inside a ground floor sushi restaurant at the time of the explosion:

26-year-old Moises Lucon, who worked at the restaurant, and 23-year-old Nicholas Figueroa, a bowling alley worker who had been there on a date.

"We continue to search although there are no other missing persons," Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said after the two bodies were pulled from the wreckage Sunday afternoon. "So the feeling is everyone who had been reported missing has now been found."

He said the families of the two men had been notified.

"We have removed over 1,000 cubic yards of debris, and we're not finished yet so we will remain on the scene a few more days to accomplish that task," Nigro said.

The names of the two dead were not immediately released; a medical examiner was to posi-

tively identify them. A spokesman for the Figueroa family confirmed to reporters at the city Medical Examiner's office that Figueroa's body was pulled from the wreckage.

"It's very hard. The family is distraught. They are going home now to prepare the funeral arrangements," Awilda Cordero told the Daily News.

Earlier Sunday, several members of Figueroa's family visited the blast site, holding flowers and crying.

Figueroa's brother, Neal, leaned over barricades and shouted pleas to emergency workers: "He's a strong man, I know he's in there! Don't give up, please find my brother."

Authorities, however, acknowledged the chances of finding anyone alive were slim.

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# Asia

## Lee Kuan Yew eulogized at funeral as architect of Singapore

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—Singaporeans bid farewell to long-time leader Lee Kuan Yew on Sunday with an elaborate procession and a three-hour state funeral at which his son, the current prime minister, eulogized the statesman and declared that the wealthy city-state he helped build is his monument.

Undeterred by heavy rain, about 100,000 people lined a 15-kilometer (9-mile) route through the city to catch a glimpse of the funeral cortege. Lee's coffin, draped in Singapore's red and white flag and protected from the downpour by a glass casing, lay atop a ceremonial gun carriage that was solemnly led past city landmarks from Parliament to a cultural center where the state funeral was held.

Along the way, crowds of people chanted "Lee Kuan Yew," snapped photos with smartphones and waved Singapore's flag. Four howitzers were fired in a nearby field, air force fighter jets streaked over the island, with one peeling off in a "missing man" formation, and navy patrol ships blasted horns.

"To those who seek Mr. Lee Kuan Yew's monument, Singaporeans can reply proudly: Look around you," Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in the first of 10 eulogies at the funeral, which was attended by more than 2,000 people, including schoolchildren, Singapore's elite, world leaders and royalty. Occasionally drawing tears



Pallbearers carry the coffin at the state funeral of the late Lee Kuan Yew, held at the University Cultural Center, Sunday, March 29, 2015, in Singapore.

and laughter, Lee said an important part of his father's legacy is that "Singapore's voice is heard and we enjoy far more influence on the international stage than we have any reason to expect."

As the service neared its conclusion, civil defense sirens blared across the island to signal a minute's silence. The government had asked trains and buses to stand still. People flocked to a crematorium where a private

cremation will be held for a final glimpse of the cortege.

During a week of national mourning that began last Monday after Lee's death at age 91, some 450,000 people lined up for hours to briefly view the statesman's coffin at Parliament House. A million people visited

tribute sites at community centers around the city.

The expansive show of emotion is a rare event for Singapore and its 5.5 million people. The island nation, about four times the size of Washington, D.C., is known around the world as a wealthy trade and finance center

with a strict social order that includes a ban on chewing gum and caning for some crimes.

Lee was Singapore's prime minister for more than three decades, ruling with an iron grip until 1990. He is regarded by Singaporeans as the architect of their nation's prosper-

ity and harmonious relations among ethnic Chinese, Malay and Indian populations. But his authoritarian rule and crushing of dissent has also left a legacy of restrictions on free speech, a tame media and a stunted democracy.

"He did everything for us Singaporeans regardless of race, language or religion," said Jennie Yeo, a teacher who arrived at 7 a.m. to stake out front row positions with two friends. "Education, housing, everything you can think of, he's taken care of for us."

Earlier this week, lawmakers paid a teary tribute to Lee in a special sitting of Parliament. Low Thia Khiang, the leader of Singapore's tiny political opposition, acknowledged Lee's role in nation-building in a brief speech, but said he did not believe one-party rule was the key to the country's economic development.

"Many Singaporeans were sacrificed during the process of nation-building and policymaking, and our society has paid a price for it," he said. "This is why Mr. Lee is also a controversial figure in some people's eyes."

Leaders and dignitaries from more than two dozen countries attended the funeral. The U.S. delegation was led by former President Bill Clinton. Others included the prime ministers of India, Japan and Australia.

## Australia mandates at least 2 people stay in cockpits

**CANBERRA, Australia** (AP)—Australia on Monday responded to the Germanwings air disaster by mandating that at least two crew members be present at all times in cockpits of larger domestic and international airliners.

Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss said airlines including Qantas and Virgin Australia would implement the changed security protocols from Monday afternoon. It would apply to all commercial flights with a least two flight attendants or more than 50 passengers. A flight attend would enter the flight deck if one of the two pilots left it for any reason.

Previously most Australian airlines have allowed their pilots to be alone on the flight deck.

French prosecutors blame copilot Andreas Lubitz, 27, for the crash of Flight 9525 that claimed 150 lives in southern France last week. The cockpit voice recorder has revealed that the pilot had been shut out of the cockpit when the Airbus A320 crashed.

Truss said there were already mental illnesses that stopped

sufferers from being pilots in Australia, and that pilots' health was regularly assessed.

"There is a need to balance the fact that people with proper treatment can recover from mental illness and be able to undertake normal careers with the critical priority of ensuring that aircraft are always safe," he told reporters.

"So this is a challenging issue for airlines and indeed for that matter for other employers, to be fair to their employees who have mental health issues but at the time ensuring that those mental health issues do not put at risk the lives of other Australians," he added.

Pilot suicide is one of the theories behind the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 that flew far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur and Beijing on March 8 last year and crashed off the Australian coast with 239 passenger and crew on board.

Truss said pilot suicide was suspected behind more than a dozen plane crashes over the past 40 years.

## Small tsunami generated in Pacific after earthquake

**SYDNEY** (AP)—A powerful earthquake rattled the South Pacific nation of Papua New Guinea on Monday, generating a small tsunami and frightening locals near the epicenter, but prompting no reports of damage or injuries.

A tsunami of half a meter (1.5 feet) was measured in the harbor of Rabaul, a town near the epicenter of the magnitude-7.7 earthquake, said Martin Mose, acting director for Papua New Guinea's National Disaster Center. The quake struck at a depth of 65 kilometers (40 miles), about 50 kilometers

(30 miles) southeast of the town of Kokopo, near Rabaul, in northeastern Papua New Guinea, the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center had warned that tsunami waves up to 3 meters (10 feet) could strike parts of Papua New Guinea, and waves of less than 0.3 meters (1 foot) could hit other Pacific countries, as far north as Russia. The center lifted the warning a few hours later, after reporting a 3-centimeter (1-inch) tsunami wave was measured at a wharf in the Solomon Islands,

about 450 kilometers (280 miles) from the epicenter.

In Rabaul, residents noticed the sea level rose slightly, prompting ocean water to flood the parking lot of a shopping center near the beach, said Mika Tuvi, an employee at the Rabaul Hotel. "But nothing beyond that—no damage caused," she said.

When the quake struck, guests and workers at the hotel fled outside, fearing the building would collapse, Tuvi said. The tremors, which lasted for about 5 minutes, were frightening in their intensity, but the hotel withstood the shaking, she said.

Officials in the capital, Port Moresby, were working to contact their counterparts in the outer provinces, but hours after the quake, there still had been no reports of damage or injuries, said Mose, of the national disaster center. He said he was confident the nation had averted a major catastrophe.

The quake caused strong shaking and knocked items off shelves in Kokopo, and was felt 800 kilometers (500 miles) away in Port Moresby, said Chris McKee, assistant director of the Geophysical Observatory in Port Moresby.

## India's upstart anti-graft party shows signs of unraveling

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—Just a few weeks ago, the upstart Aam Aadmi Party, or Common Man's Party, was seen by many as a breath of fresh air in the chaotic, corruption-tainted world of Indian politics, promising to root out graft and display complete transparency.

Now, however, with its top leaders spending the weekend slugging it out in public, it seems the party that promised to transform India's political landscape is more likely to bring disappointment to millions of Indians despairing of their politicians.

"To think that commentators

were actually advising older political parties to be more like #AAP seems #AAP has decided to be more like us :)" Omar Abdullah, a former chief minister of Indian-controlled Kashmir, tweeted Saturday.

The Common Man's Party, formed in late 2012, emerged out of hugely popular street protests against the deeply entrenched culture of graft in this nation of 1.2 billion. The party chose former tax official and longtime anti-corruption activist Arvind Kejriwal as its leader.

After some initial hiccups, the AAP appeared to hit its stride

last month when it was swept to power in local elections in India's capital, crushing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party. It won all but three seats in Delhi's 70-member legislature.

In that moment of ecstatic victory, it seemed that the party had the potential to one day parlay that success to being a serious player in national politics.

But the cracks in the party's leadership appeared quickly.

Over the last few weeks, sharp differences began to emerge between Kejriwal, now Delhi's chief minister, and two top leaders of his

party who had been his allies since the AAP's inception.

This past week, a secret recording of Kejriwal accusing the two men, Prashant Bhushan and Yogendra Yadav, of working against the party made the rounds of several television stations. On the tape, Kejriwal threatens to walk out of the party with the lawmakers who support him if the two rival leaders aren't thrown out.

The two men then came out in the open and denied Kejriwal's charge, and led a bitter attack against what they have described as his autocratic way of leading the party.



## World

## Hometown pastor says community stands by co-pilot, family

**MONTABAUER, Germany** (AP)—The pastor of the Lutheran church in Andreas Lubitz's hometown said Sunday that the community stands by him and his family, despite the fact that prosecutors blame the 27-year-old co-pilot for causing the plane crash that killed 150 people in southern France.

The town of Montabaur has been rattled by the revelation that Lubitz, who first learned to fly at a nearby glider club, may have intentionally caused Tuesday's crash of Germanwings Flight 9525.

"For us, it makes it particularly difficult that the only victim from Montabaur is suspected to have caused this tragedy, this crash—although this has not been finally confirmed, but a lot is indicating that—and we have to face this," pastor Michael Dietrich said.

He spoke to The Associated



AP  
In this still image photo taken from video, Priest Michael Dietrich, from the hometown of co-pilot Andeas Lubitz talks during an interview with AP Television, in Montabaur, Germany, Sunday, March 29, 2015.

Press after holding a church service Sunday to commemorate the crash victims and support their families.

"The co-pilot, the family belong to our community, and we

stand by this, and we embrace them and will not hide this, and want to support the family in particular," Dietrich said.

He added that there is no direct contact with the family

at the moment, but that he believes they are receiving good assistance.

French prosecutors haven't questioned the family yet "out of decency and respect for their

pain," Marseille prosecutor Brice Robin said.

Authorities are trying to understand what made Lubitz lock his fellow pilot out of the cockpit and ignore his pleas to open the door before slamming the plane into a mountain on what should have been a routine flight from Barcelona to Duesseldorf.

French officials refused to confirm or deny a partial transcript that German newspaper Bild am Sonntag said it had obtained of the cockpit recording. The paper reported Sunday that the pilot left for the toilet shortly before 10:30 a.m. and was heard trying unsuccessfully to get into the cockpit again a few minutes later, then shouting "for God's sake open the door."

After several more minutes in which the pilot could be heard trying to break open the

door, the plane crashed into the mountainside, according to Bild am Sonntag, which didn't say how it obtained the report.

Brice, the Marseille prosecutor said that none of the bodies recovered so far have been identified, denying German media reports that Lubitz's body had been found.

Tests on the body of the co-pilot may provide clues on any medical treatment he was receiving. Germany prosecutors said Friday that Lubitz was hiding an illness and sick notes for the day of the crash from his employer.

Dietrich, the pastor, said he knew Lubitz as a teenager, when he attended religious education 13 years ago, and his mother, who worked as a part-time organist in the community.

"When I worked with her or talked to her, it was very good and very harmonious. We had good conversations," Dietrich said. "I know her and her family. This does not make sense. It is incomprehensible for me, for us, for everyone who knew her and the family."

## Arab League unveils joint military force amid Yemen crisis

**SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt** (AP)—A two-day Arab summit ended Sunday with a vow to defeat Iranian-backed Shiite rebels in Yemen and the formal unveiling of plans to form a joint Arab intervention force, setting the stage for a potentially dangerous clash between U.S.-allied Arab states and Tehran over influence in the region.

Arab leaders taking turns to address the gathering spoke repeatedly of the threat posed to the region's Arab identity by what they called moves by "foreign" or "outside parties" to stoke sectarian, ethnic or religious rivalries in Arab states—all thinly-veiled references to Iran, which has in recent years consolidated its hold in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and now Yemen.

The summit's final communique made similarly vague references, but the Arab League chief, Nabil Elaraby, was unequivocal during a news conference later, singling out Iran for what he said was its intervention "in many nations."

A summit resolution said the newly unveiled joint Arab defense force would be deployed at the request of any Arab nation facing a national security threat and that it would also be used to combat terrorist groups.

The agreement came as U.S. and other Western diplomats were pushing to meet a Tuesday deadline to reach a deal with Iran that would restrict its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

The Saudis and their allies in the Gulf fear that a nuclear

deal between Washington and Tehran will free Iran's hands to bolster its influence in places like Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and in Sunni-ruled Bahrain, which has a Shiite majority. They believe the air campaign in Yemen and a joint Arab force would empower them to stand up to what they see as Iran's bullying. The United States has sought to offer reassurances that a nuclear deal does not mean that Washington will abandon them, but they remain skeptical.

The Houthis swept down from their northern strongholds last year and captured Yemen's capital, Sanaa, in September. Embattled Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, a close U.S. ally against a powerful local al-Qaida affiliate, first

fled to the southern city of Aden before fleeing the country last week as the rebels closed in.

Speaking at the summit on Saturday, Hadi accused Iran of being behind the Houthi offensive, raising the specter of a regional conflict. Iran and the Houthis deny that Tehran arms the rebel movement, though both acknowledge the Islamic Republic is providing humanitarian and other aid.

On Sunday, the Saudi ambassador to the U.S., Adel al-Jubeir, said the Lebanese Hezbollah militia was also supporting the Houthis. The Saudi-led campaign, he said on NBC's "Meet the Press," is to protect Yemen's "legitimate government from a group that is allied and supported by Iran and Hezbollah."

## Officials: Iran nuke talks solving some issues but not others

**LAUSANNE, Switzerland** (AP)—Iran is considering demands for further cuts to its uranium enrichment program but is pushing back on how long it must limit technology it could use to make atomic arms, Western officials involved in the nuclear talks said Sunday.

Iran's potential movement on enrichment reflected the intense pressure to close a deal. But substantial differences between the sides may prove too difficult to bridge before Tuesday's deadline for a preliminary agreement, which is meant to set the stage for a further round of negotiations toward a comprehensive deal in June.

The goal is a long-term curb on Iran's nuclear activities. In return, Tehran would gain relief from the burden of global economic penalties.

Foreign ministers and other representatives of Iran and the six powers in the talks have said there is a chance of succeeding by the deadline despite significant obstacles.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said it was up to Iran to make that happen.

By accepting the restrictions, the Iranians would "live up to their rhetoric that they are not trying to acquire a nuclear weapon," he said in Washington on ABC's "This Week."

The officials in Lausanne said the sides were advancing on limits to aspects of Iran's uranium enrichment program, which can be used to make the core of a nuclear warhead.

Tehran is ready to ship to Russia all the enriched uranium it produces, the officials said, describing a change from previous demands that Iran be permitted to keep a small amount in stock.

One official cautioned that Iran previously had agreed to this, only to change its mind. Also, Iran's official IRNA news agency on Sunday cited an unidentified Iranian negotiator as denying such an agreement had been reached.

Uranium enrichment has been the chief concern in over more than a decade of international attempts to cap Iran's nuclear programs.

Over the past weeks, Iran has moved from demanding that it be allowed to keep nearly 10,000 centrifuges enriching uranium, to agreeing to 6,000.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the talks, said Tehran now may be ready to accept even fewer.

Tehran says it wants to enrich only for energy, science, industry and medicine. But many countries fear Iran could use the technology to make weapons-grade uranium.

## 3 West African countries increase fight to end Ebola

**CONAKRY, Guinea** (AP)—The West African countries hit hardest by Ebola are ramping up efforts to eradicate the deadly disease using lockdowns, restrictions on burials and a warning to survivors about the potential dangers of unprotected sex.

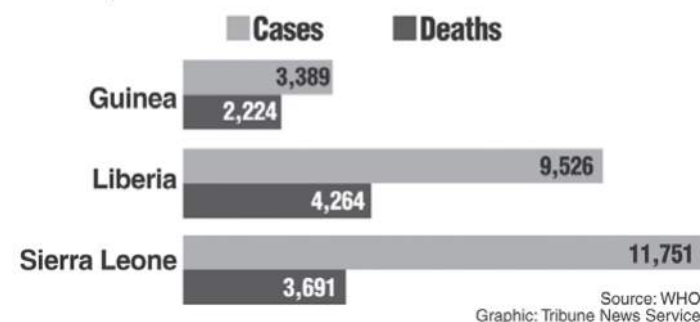
The region's Ebola outbreak has killed more than 10,000 people since cases were first recorded more than a year ago, with most of the dead coming from Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Sierra Leone, which has seen the most cases, imposed a three-day lockdown that officials hoped would help the country get "total control" over Ebola. The lockdown was expected to conclude on Sunday.

Neighboring Guinea could soon be holding its own lockdowns after President Alpha Conde announced that emer-

## Ebola cases and deaths

The number of deaths and cases of Ebola in countries in the current epidemic as of March 18



gency steps would be "reinforced" for a 45-day period in five districts in the west of the country.

All burials in the affected areas will need to be secured by Red Cross or security forces, and all dead bodies will be systematically tested, Conde said in an address on state television Saturday night. Mourning

ceremonies will be restricted to close family.

Conde also said lockdown measures could be implemented as needed.

In Liberia, the government issued a statement Sunday warning survivors of Ebola to abstain from unprotected sex even beyond the 90-day period earlier recommended. The statement

was prompted by continued confusion over how the country's latest Ebola patient—its first in weeks—came down with the disease.

The woman's boyfriend is an Ebola survivor, raising the possibility of sexual transmission. However, he was released from treatment about six months ago, and Ebola has not been detected in the semen of a survivor for longer than about three months. It is unclear when the woman, who died on Friday, first became symptomatic. The incubation period for Ebola can last up to 21 days.

Sunday's statement, signed by assistant health minister Tolbert Nyenswah, said survivors "should consider correct and consistent use of condoms for all sexual acts beyond three months until more information is available."



# Overdrive

## Little Jeep Renegade Trailhawk makes a big impression

By MARK PHELAN  
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Jeep appears to have nailed the formula for a small, capable and affordable SUV with the 2015 Jeep Renegade Trailhawk (I

give it four out of four stars).

The subcompact SUV delivers value, room, comfort and off-road ability in an appealing and affordable package. Jeep developed the Renegade primarily to win new customers in

### UNDER THE HOOD

## Simple reconnection of battery can solve seemingly complex problems

By BRAD BERGHOLDT  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**Q**: I have enjoyed reading your column for many years. A recent question you answered about a car's warning lights coming on at random times hit home, though I experienced the issue with a different car.

My family's 2001 Audi A4's anti-lock braking system warning light would come on and stay on when we started the car. After turning the car off and back on, the light went out. We managed to get the car to the Audi dealer when the light was on, and after 30 minutes or more of studying a diagnostic tool screen, the shop's workers could not find a reason for the light being on. The issue persisted.

Nine months of daily driving later, the car would not start. We simply replaced the battery, and the ABS light has not ignited since. You might suggest your other reader have his battery checked.—Karen Casner

**A:** I thought it was valuable to share Karen's experience as sometimes the most basic things can cause symptoms that are complex and confounding.

I've personally encountered similar situations in which a battery or its connections worked adequately yet caused an illuminated warning lamp or odd system performance.

Electrical theory tells us that voltage drop experienced by a battery in a circuit is proportional to the current passing through that circuit. If the massive current needed by a car's starter passes through the battery and battery connections successfully, one might assume all the much smaller circuits in the vehicle would be good to go. But this is the real world, and our cars are affected by heat, vibration, corrosion, connection looseness and electrical noise, which can cause intermittent or perplexing mayhem. Additionally, electronic control modules and systems are finicky about stable battery and system voltage, which can be

compromised during startup or accessory operation.

Some oddities I've encountered:

- A vehicle intermittently stalling, but starting, running and restarting perfectly. This issue seemed to be caused by a tight-and-clean GM battery's side terminal connection.

- Severe engine dropout and illuminated check-engine light, caused by a flaky Cadillac trunk closer position switch.

- Power windows automatically stopping in odd positions, fixed by disconnecting/reconnecting battery terminals.

- Radio static and a CD player changes tracks, fixed by cleaning/tightening battery connections.

- Turbocharger vane position error code and check engine light, caused by one of two batteries being within recommended specifications, but barely.

- Surging engine idle, caused by a defective climate control panel, and in another case, low engine coolant.

- And odd engine performance and accessory flakiness fixed by replacement of an alternator (leaky diodes?). There's more but you get the idea.

Sometimes a reboot of all vehicle systems by disconnecting/reconnecting the battery (wait one hour in between or other method specified by manufacturer) may alleviate odd system operation and/or troublesome warning lights. If considering this, be sure any security codes are available for re-entry and follow any listed procedures. Sometimes odd system or vehicle performance may be addressed via a "flash" (a software update).

Oh, I almost forgot the one that made me consider worm farming as a new profession: Check engine light when brushing hair! After many repair attempts, adding a supplemental ground to the powertrain control module put this demon back in its box.

*Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.*



The Renegade's off-road capability is a major selling point.

MCT

### NUTS & BOLTS

#### 2015 Jeep Renegade Trailhawk

- All-wheel drive, five-passenger subcompact SUV
- Price as tested: \$30,195 (excluding destination charge)
- Rating: Four out of four stars
- Reasons to buy: Four-wheel drive; off-road ability; interior room; controls and voice recognition
- Shortcomings: No memory for driver's settings; fuel economy; mild shift lag on highway
- EPA fuel economy rating: 21 mpg city/29 highway/24 combined.

Regular gasoline.

- Base price (excluding destination charges): \$25,995
- Engine: 2.4-liter 16-valve four-cylinder
- Power: 180 horsepower at 6,400 rpm; 179 pound-feet of torque at 3,900 rpm
- Transmission: Nine-speed automatic
- Wheelbase: 101.2 inches
- Length: 166.6 inches
- Width: 74.2 inches
- Height: 66.5 inches
- Curb Weight: 3,573 lbs.
- Where assembled: Melfi, Italy

SUVs is still taking shape, but the Renegade's price looks very competitive.

Jeep doesn't offer memory for the driver's settings, a feature I'd appreciate. About the only available features my car didn't have were leather seats, blind spot/cross traffic monitor and removable roof panels.

Just 166.6 inches long, the Renegade is 8.5 inches shorter than a Jeep Compass.

The Renegade is small even compared to other subcompact SUVs. It's 2.5 inches shorter than the Honda HR-V and nearly two inches shorter than the Buick Encore and Chevrolet Trax.

Despite that, the Renegade is very roomy, with tons of headroom and good leg and shoulder

room in the front and rear seats. Cargo capacity is useful, though at the small end of its class.

The styling, round headlights and seven-slot grille make the Renegade immediately recognizable as a Jeep. The high roof and upright sides lend themselves to big windows and good sight lines. Combined with the Renegade's large side mirrors, I barely missed blind-spot alert, one of my favorite features.

The interior materials are pretty good. My car had cloth upholstery. The dash and armrests were covered in attractive, padded vinyl.

Fiat Chrysler's controls are among the auto industry's best. My vehicle combined excellent voice recognition with

touch screen, buttons, dials and switches.

On a reasonably challenging off-road course north of Montreal, the little Jeep overcame snow and ice that would almost certainly stymie its competitors.

The Renegade performed equally well on road. The 2.4-liter engine provided plenty of oomph for zipping through Montreal traffic. The Renegade was a comfortable highway cruiser on the nine-hour drive. The Renegade was quiet at highway speeds, despite its boxy shape and the snow tires required by Quebec law.

The automatic transmission hesitated a bit before downshifting to pass at highway speeds, probably to maximize fuel economy.

The Renegade's small size and quick steering makes it a breeze to park, even in the narrow streets of Old Montreal.

The Renegade Trailhawk's fuel economy is at the low end of its segment, as you'd expect from a vehicle that has more power and off-road ability than its competitors. The Environmental Protection Agency rates the 4WD 2.4-liter at 21 mpg in the city, 29 on the highway and 24 combined. That's lower than the other subcompact SUVs, but unlikely to be an issue for buyers who want the Trailhawk's capability. The base 1.4-liter Renegade should get better fuel economy, but the EPA hasn't released test results yet.

This little Jeep seems destined to be a big success.



# Life & Style

## Taylor Swift wins artist of the year at iHeartRadio Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU  
AP MUSIC WRITER

The iHeartRadio Music Awards should be called the iHeartTaylorSwift Awards.

The pop singer cleaned house at the show Sunday, winning artist of the year and song of the year for “Shake It Off,” and even assisted Madonna by strumming her guitar onstage while the pop icon sang a new song.

“More than anything in the world, I just hope that any of the fans watching know how much I adore you ... we’ve gotten closer and closer with each year, not further apart,” a glossy-eyed Swift said at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. “Like, you make me so happy.”

The pop star also won best lyrics for her other hit song, “Blank Space.”

Madonna, whose recent awards show performances were energetic and upbeat, toned it down when singing “Rebel Heart” while Swift played guitar next to her.

“My favorite guitar player, yeah!” Madonna said as she presented Swift with song of the year.

The second annual iHeartRadio Music Awards also featured

Rihanna, Justin Timberlake, Chris Brown and Iggy Azalea. Guests sat at traditional tables—in the vein of the Golden Globes—instead of typical awards show seats. Chris Brown sat with Ludacris, while Swift’s table included Snoop Dogg, Ryan Seacrest and Timberlake.

The former boy band member, who earned the iHeartRadio Innovator Award for his accomplishments as an entertainer, told the audience that he was called “weird” as a teenager, and offered encouraging words to teens experiencing teasing and bullying.

“Growing up in school, no one ever called me anything close to an innovator, they called me different, they called me weird, they called me a couple of other words I can’t say on TV,” Timberlake said. “So thankfully my mother taught me that being different was a good thing, that being different meant you could actually make a difference, so tonight I want to thank my mom.”

Timberlake, whose wife Jessica Biel is pregnant with their first child, also thanked the actress, who didn’t attend the awards show which aired on NBC.

“Finally, I want to thank my



Taylor Swift arrives at the iHeartRadio Music Awards at The Shrine Auditorium on Sunday, March 29, 2015, in Los Angeles.

best friend, my favorite collaborator, my wife Jessica,” he said.

Rihanna performed her new single, “B--- Better Have My Money,” for the first time. The b-word wasn’t bleeped throughout the performance, where Rihanna sported a bright green mink with matching knee high boots and sunglasses.

Azalea and Jennifer Hudson kicked off the show with a jail-themed performance: Azalea

was dressed as an inmate and Hudson as a police officer as they performed “Trouble” with a set design that included bathroom stalls and a jail cell with laser light bars.

Nick Jonas followed the theme with his arms and neck tied in thick chains, while he sang his latest hit, “Chains,” as dancers wearing black and white stripes danced around him.

Jamie Foxx hosted the fan-

voted show and performed a new song with Brown. Foxx also told jokes about celebrities, including Bruce Jenner, Suge Knight and Marvin Gaye.

“Marvin Gaye had an incredible year. Marvin Gaye had the No. 1 song featuring Pharrell and Robin Thicke,” he said. “He’s making beats in heaven. He might be dead, but he ain’t dead broke.”

Meghan Trainor, Florida

Georgia Line, Snoop Dogg, Jason Derulo and Kelly Clarkson also performed during the three-hour event.

Jason Aldean, who also hit the stage, won country song of the year for “Burnin’ It Down.”

“I want to thank my new wife Brittany over there,” said Aldean, who got married last week.

Ariana Grande, Nicki Minaj and Jessie J won best collaboration for “Bang Bang,” Hozier’s “Take Me to Church” won alternative rock song of the year and Calvin Harris’ “Summer” won dance song of the year.

Jeremih and YG won hip-hop/R&B song of the year for “Don’t Tell ‘Em,” beating out Beyoncé and Jay Z’s “Drunk In Love.”

“Since I didn’t get my Grammy nomination for best rap album ... I’ll roll with this,” rapper YG said.

Azalea and Smith—who won best new artist and accepted in a video message—were the top nominees with five apiece. They—along with Grande and Luke Bryan—lost artist of the year to Swift.

The awards show also featured numerous video packages with musicians talking about their careers, from Minaj to Imagine Dragons.

## Michelle Obama declares ‘Black Girls Rock!’

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY  
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

**NEWARK, N.J.** (AP)—First Lady Michelle Obama celebrated the beauty, power and tenacity of black women while spreading her own message of education for girls at Black Girls Rock!, an annual event honoring trailblazing women of color from all walks of life.

“No matter who you are, no matter where you come from, you are beautiful,” Obama told the crowd, which included many young black girls.

“I am so proud of you. My husband, your president, is so proud of you,” she added. “We have so much hope and dreams for you.”

Obama was not among the honorees at Saturday night’s festivities, held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. That distinction went to actress Jada Pinkett Smith, singer Erykah Badu, actress Cicely Tyson, “Selma” director Ava DuVernay, educator Nadia Lopez and Dr. Helene D. Gayle, president and CEO of CARE USA, a humanitarian organization.

However, Obama was the most celebrated participant. Wearing a form-fitting white dress, she jammed to performances from the likes of Badu, Fantasia, Sheila E!, Estelle and others and applauded the honorees.



First Lady Michelle Obama, left, speaks while standing on stage with Making A Difference award winners, from left, Kaya Thomas, Chental-Song Bemby and Gabrielle Jordan during a taping of the Black Girls Rock award ceremony at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Saturday, March 28, 2015, in Newark.

Obama got arguably the night’s loudest ovation as she came on stage and declared “Black girls rock!”—the slogan and name of the organization founded by Beverly Bond. It is designed to uplift young black girls, a group that often has difficulty finding positive and reaffirming images of themselves in the world.

Obama acknowledged as much in her speech to celebrate three young honorees.

“I know there are voices that you are not good enough,” she said, acknowledging that she often lacked self-confidence growing up despite encouraging parents.

“Each of those doubts was like a test,” she said, “that I ei-

ther shrink away from or rise to meet. And I decided to rise.”

Obama, who recently completed a trip to Japan and Cambodia as part of her worldwide push for better educational opportunities for girls, lauded the young honorees for excelling in their studies.

“There is nothing more important than being serious

about your education,” the Ivy League-educated Obama said. “That’s why I am able to stand here tonight. ... I want every one of our black girls do to the same, and our black boys.”

Obama’s speech was just one of many highlights of the nearly four-hour event, which will be shown Sunday, April 5, on BET.

Will Smith gave an emotional tribute to his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, who received the Star Power award. Smith alluded to persistent rumors that the couple’s marriage was in trouble.

He said when one rumor got out of control, he had a chance for reflection.

“In that brief moment my heart jumped for a second and I started to imagine what my life would have been like without that woman,” he said as the couple’s daughter, Willow, beamed from the audience.

When Pinkett Smith accepted the honor, she alluded to recent slights of black girls and women—including a college baseball player’s slur against Little League pitcher Mo’ne Davis—as reasons why Black Girls Rock! is necessary.

She also implored black women to celebrate and be aware of their own strength.

“I need you to understand that we are the women who marched from cotton fields into fields of medicine ... politics ... entertainment,” she said. “We have found a way to march into the White House.”

Tyson also spoke to the resiliency of black women as she accepted her legacy award from hosts actresses Tracee Ellis Ross and Regina King.

“The moment anyone tries to demean or degrade you in any way, you have to know how great you are,” Tyson said. “Nobody would bother to beat you down if you were not a threat.”

DuVernay, whose civil rights drama “Selma” received an Academy Award nomination, making her the first black woman to notch such an achievement, name-checked a host of other black filmmakers in her speech as she accepted her Shot Caller award, and implored women to “figure out what you need to do to be the heroine of your own story.”

The show peppered songs from entertainers like Jill Scott, Estelle and others with inspiring stories from the award winners. One of the members of the group Sister Sledge sang the song “We Are Family,” with the refrain “I’ve got all my sisters with me,” as the audience grooved along.

And sisterhood was the spirit of the evening, evident when Obama came on stage to close the show with all the honorees. When an embarrassed King flubbed a line, Obama gave her a hug and then jokingly rubbed her back.

The actress and director then shouted with glee, “I’ve got Mrs. Obama pumping me up!”



# DreamWorks' 'Home' bests 'Get Hard' at box office with \$54M

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Business was brisk at the weekend box-office, where the DreamWorks animated alien adventure "Home" beat out the Will Ferrell-Kevin Hart comedy "Get Hard" with a resounding debut of \$54 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

While the two films had been expected to vie for the top spot at North American theaters, "Home" came in well above expectations, handing DreamWorks Animation a much-needed hit. Though a distant second,

"Get Hard" also opened strongly with an estimated \$34.6 million, rewarding the Warner Bros. pairing of two of the most bankable stars in comedy.

Last week's top film, the young-adult sequel "The Divergent Series: Insurgent," slid to third with \$22.1 million.

With a \$100 million-plus debut expected next weekend for "Furious 7"—a franchise built on street-racing adrenaline and a diverse cast—Hollywood scored with two films that sought a variety of audiences.

"Get Hard" united the fans of Hart and Ferrell, albeit while finding some criticism for its racial humor. And "Home" is the rare animated film led by an African-American girl protagonist (voiced by Rihanna). She plays a teenage girl left alone after an alien invasion of Earth. Jim Parsons, Jennifer Lopez and Steve Martin round out the cast.

"It's a diverse cast and we drew a diverse audience, which I think is really special and something you don't see in animated films," said Chris Aronson, do-

mestic distribution head for 20th Century Fox, the film's distributor. "That just ends up broadening the appeal of the film."

"Get Hard" had been dogged by controversy, as some questioned the tastefulness of humor that critics called homophobic and racist. The directorial debut of Etan Cohen, it stars Ferrell as a hedge fund manager sentenced to a maximum security prison for fraud. To prepare for life in prison, he turns to the only black person in his orbit, a family man played by Hart.

"When Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart get together, you hope to have some criticism," said Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros. He added that it's the biggest R-rated opening for both Hart and Ferrell.

The wild card of the weekend was "It Follows," a critically acclaimed indie horror film from Radius, the Weinstein Company label. After the film drew packed theaters in limited release, plans for a subsequent video-on-demand release were postponed and "It Follows" expanded to 1,218 theaters over the weekend. It pulled in \$4 million over the weekend.

"It's an interesting test case," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Rentrak, who applauded Radius for having the confidence in a small, very low budget movie. "It's rare for a horror film to enjoy those kind of reviews. Ordinarily, you don't see a platform building of theaters for a horror movie. Usually, you see them drop like a rock in the second week."

1. "Home," \$54 million (\$24 million international).
2. "Get Hard," \$34.6 million (\$4.6 million international).
3. "The Divergent Series: Insurgent," \$22.1 million (\$29.9 million international).
4. "Cinderella," \$17.5 million (\$38.7 million international).
5. "It Follows," \$4 million.
6. "Kingsman: The Secret Service," \$3.1 million (\$25 million international).
7. "Run All Night," \$2.2 million (\$2.1 million international).
8. "Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," \$2.2 million (\$2.3 million international).
9. "Do You Believe?," \$2.2 million.
10. "The Gunman," \$2 million.

## Destiny's Child reunites at Stellar Gospel Awards



In this Feb. 3, 2013 file photo, members of Destiny's Child, from left, Kelly Rowland, Beyonce, and Michelle Williams, perform at Super Bowl XLVII, in New Orleans.

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—A reunited Destiny's Child took the stage at the Stellar Gospel Music Awards on Saturday as singer Erica Campbell took home six awards, including the night's top honor.

Beyoncé and Kelly Rowland joined Michelle Williams in a

surprise performance of Williams' single, "Say Yes," which also netted an award for music video of the year.

Campbell was the night's big winner at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, winning artist of the year as well as female vocalist and CD of the year for "Help."

Tiffany Joy McGhee's "Amazing" was named song of the year, and Deitrick Haddon took male vocalist honors. Deitrick Haddon's LXW also won in the contemporary choir category.

The awards will be broadcast April 5 on the TV One network.

## Russian theater director fired over Wagner opera

**MOSCOW (AP)**—Russia's culture minister on Sunday fired the director of a Siberian theater whose modern staging of Wagner's opera "Tannhauser" offended the powerful Russian Orthodox Church.

The announcement was made as several thousand people rallied outside the Novosibirsk theater to protest the opera, which they said was offensive to Christians and reflected the values of a decadent West.

"Orthodox Christianity is the foundation of the great Russian culture," said one of the signs held by the protesters in Novosibirsk, a city of 1.5 million and the third-largest in Russia.

They waved patriotic flags, including some with a picture of President Vladimir Putin imposed upon the Russian tricolor and others in the orange and black stripes of the St. George ribbon. Long associated with commemorations of the victory in World War II, the ribbon is now worn to express support for the Russia-backed separatists fighting in Ukraine.

The Russian Orthodox Church has played an active part in Putin's efforts to consolidate Russian society by appealing to what are described as traditional Russian values as opposed to the liberalism of the West.

As the controversy over

"Tannhauser" grew in recent weeks, many Russian cultural figures spoke out in defense of the theater's interpretation of Richard Wagner's 19th century opera.

But on Sunday, Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky fired Boris Mezdrich as director of the Novosibirsk State Opera and Ballet Theater, a position he held in 2001-2008 and since his reappointment in 2011.

Medinsky replaced him with Vladimir Kekhman, director of the Mikhailovsky Theater in St. Petersburg. Kekhman told the state news agency Tass that he would remain director of both theaters.

## Songwriter injured in California crash; motorcyclist killed

**SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP)**—A singer-songwriter behind the 1969 rock hit "Spirit in the Sky" has been critically injured in a Northern California car accident that killed a motorcyclist.

The Press Democrat in Santa Rosa reported Sunday (http://bit.ly/1BBIH8X) that 72-year-old Norman Greenbaum wrote and

sang the hit song featured in 50 movies and several TV shows.

Sgt. David Derczo of the California Highway Patrol tells the newspaper that Greenbaum, a longtime resident of Santa Rosa, was the passenger of a Subaru Outback on Saturday afternoon that turned left, crossing into the motorcycle's path.

Derczo says the motorcycle's 20-year-old driver, Ihab Usama Halaweh, died at the scene; his passenger was also critically injured.

The newspaper says Greenbaum and the motorcycle passenger are being treated at a hospital.

Officials say the car's driver was not injured; alcohol isn't suspected.

## Wife's donation of eggs is fertile ground for discussion

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I were chatting recently and the subject of sperm donation came up. He surprised me by saying he's vehemently against it, and then compared it to selling your body as in prostitution. He also mentioned he thinks it's disgusting because any kids we would potentially have might end up dating their half-siblings. We let the issue drop, but Abby, I have a secret.

In my early 20s, I participated in an egg donation program to support couples who were unable to get pregnant on their own. At the time, I didn't think much about it. I didn't want kids—and I doubt if I ever will—so I figured it was my contribution to the gene pool without having to raise little humans myself.

I never told my husband about it because it happened before we met. I do know that some of my eggs were successfully transplanted.

Should I tell my husband about my donations or keep quiet? We don't have kids, but are talking about trying in the near future. Would it be wrong for them to go out into the world not knowing about their half-siblings?

FERTILE MYRTLE

**DEAR MYRTLE:** The time to have spoken up was when your husband aired his feelings on the subject of sperm donation and infertility issues. You did a wonderful thing and with good reason. Your husband should be made aware of that,

with no apologies.

**If you do decide to start a family, considering that there are half-siblings out there, it would be wise to advise your children to have genetic testing done with their prospective spouses. (Because there are diseases caused by recessive genes, it's a good idea anyway.)**

**However, unless you are sure that you want to bring a child into this world, you shouldn't become a parent.**

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 29 and on the fence about what to do. My 32-year-old boyfriend of a year and a half, "Aiden," proposed while we were in Europe last month. Aiden is a sweet guy who would do anything for me. I waffled and said I had to think about it. He bought a lovely engagement ring that he still has in his possession. We do not live together.

Aiden says he's certain he wants to spend his life with me. My problem is, I don't want to marry him. I am a professional, and Aiden is a tradesman with no money. Even though he kisses the ground I walk on, I don't think I'd be happy in the long term with him and would always wonder if I could have done better.

On the other hand, I am almost 30 and want children. It seems that nice guys who want to commit are in short supply. Should I settle for Aiden? Breaking up with him, as I did a few months ago for a couple of weeks, would crush him. But he has little social life

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



and no hobbies—just me.

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**DEAR CONTEMPLATING:** Nice guys who want to commit may be in short supply, but please do THIS nice guy a favor and end the relationship before you hurt him any more than you already have. Tradesmen can be good providers, husbands and fathers, and Aiden has much to offer a woman who can appreciate him fully. Clearly, that's not you, so let him go.

*For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*



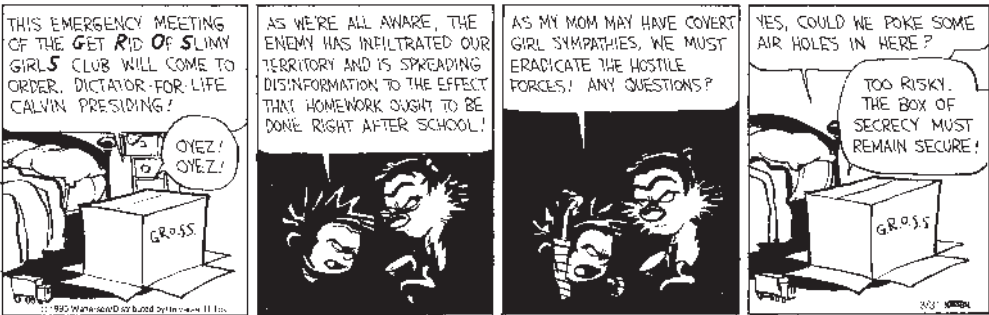
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

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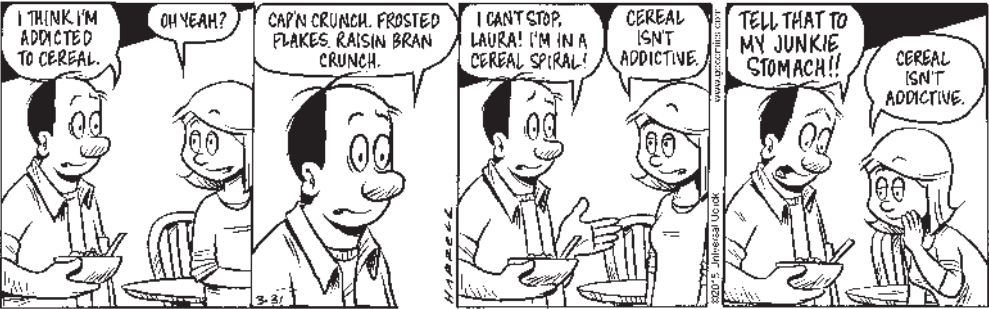


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Branch

5 Scoundrel

8 Break suddenly

12 Hebrew month

13 Bullring cry

14 Ringlet

15 Apportion (out)

16 CB kin

18 Nassau's island group

20 Mountain nymph

21 British actor Stevens

22 Sky safety org.

23 Unkempt

26 German city

30 Noah's craft

31 "Monkey suit"

32 Back talk

33 "Gray Mountain" author

36 Ballroom dance

38 Whammy

39 Has the ability

40 "Monopoly" building

43 Soccer legend wed to a Spice Girl

47 Moorish kings' palace

49 Emanation

50 Venetian blind

51 "Of course"

52 Harness part

53 "Thirty days —"

54 Ram's mate

55 Wood-shaping tool

DOWN

1 Child of 54-

2 Concept

3 Geometry or algebra

4 Rye and pumpernickel

5 "Yankee Doodle Dandy" man

6 "Sad to say ..."

7 Obama, for ex.

8 Sacred beetle

9 Undraped

10 Met melody

11 Trudge

17 Wander

19 Spring time

22 Office transmission

23 Periodical, briefly

24 Mess up

25 Schuss

26 Drone

27 Einstein's birthplace

28 Cage component

29 Univ. transcript stat

31 April 15 payment

34 Scabbard

35 Captain's place

36 Pouch

37 Turkey's capital

39 Stop

40 Corned beef recipe

41 — podrida

42 Just one of those things?

43 Concoct, in a way

44 Colored

45 N. Mex. neighbor

46 Lion's pride?

48 "See ya"

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterdays answer 3-31

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Szohr, 30; Ewan McGregor, 44; Christopher Walken, 72; Shirley Jones, 81.

**Happy Birthday:** Good fortune is heading your way. Put more time and effort into your skills, knowledge, experience and getting ahead professionally. You can make a difference to your standard of living if you are astute, competitive and willing to learn as you go. Adaptability will prove to others that you have what it takes to be successful. Your numbers are 6, 10, 16, 25, 29, 33, 42.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Size up your situation and make an educated guess at the best route to take. Sitting still and waiting for someone else to make a move will not help you get closer to your goal. Do your own thing and make it count. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Not everything will be crystal clear. Dig deep and find out what everyone wants. Listen and learn. Move in a direction that interests you. Don't let mundane jobs take up all your time. Do something that appeals to you. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Present what you have to offer. The moves you make will help you get your way. A partner will show greater interest and contribute to something that means a lot to you. A competitive challenge will end up in your favor. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't take your eye off the ball. As soon as you let down your guard, someone will step in

and take over. You have to use your imagination and stay ahead of any competition you face. Don't give in to pressure. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Do something to update your image or to make what you have to offer more appealing. Use your insight, knowledge and skills to get what you want. A self-confident attitude will lead to victory. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Emotions will surface, putting you in an awkward position. Look at the big picture and you'll get a better idea what to do next. Love is highlighted, and making a romantic gesture will improve your personal life. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You'll be tempted to take a risk or to get involved in something that will cause problems at home. Think before you take a leap of faith and follow someone who is offering something that sounds too good to be true. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** A challenge will get you heading in a new direction. Consider ways that you can use your skills and talent to bring in extra cash. A partnership with someone with a lot to offer will result in greater cash flow. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Take on whatever comes your way. Your ability to challenge and compete with anyone who tries to match what you have to offer will lead you to the winner's circle. Changes at home will be in your best interest. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Put your money in a safe place. Build your assets and protect your possessions. Focus on self- and home improvements, not on trying to change others. Stick close to home and be conservative in your approach to helping others. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Take a look back, attend a reunion or just get together with someone you haven't seen for a long time. Your memories will be a reminder of what you wanted to aspire to. It's never too late to begin something new. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Focus on learning, sharing information and visiting people who can help you get ahead. Refrain from taking on too much or offering to help someone else when you should be trying to make your own dreams come true. Invest in your future. ★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are entertaining, giving and loyal. You are helpful, expressive and energetic. Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

3/31

3/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

3/31

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'BIRDMAN' (FILM) Solution: 10 letters

CAST GOLDUNCANEU  
NEPATARALCHINNN  
OHYBTKBLEEGPCO  
TCEIINARRITUAET  
RALTRULTISDRHSA  
OZDHRMHXHEEPPUE  
NAIAEOAGHELBEK  
JEREMYMSRARCMT  
ERSMNAEROKINRS  
NDOAAWJLALCENNHH  
ANMDRAWDEHYEOEI  
GAADKAWSAIHWRRM  
GOHETALEJANDROI  
IMSTYELINDSAYTZ  
RISRYANNAIMADHU

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Yesterday's Answer: Freestyle  
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 or 42, order online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com). (Contains 43 puzzles.)

**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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# Duke back in Final Four after 66-52 win over Gonzaga



**HOUSTON**  
(AP)—Mike Krzyzewski is living in the moment with his

youngest team ever, not thinking too much about the significance of his latest trip to the NCAA Final Four.

With their trio of freshmen starting, the Blue Devils are going to their 16th Final Four, and a record-tying 12th for Krzyzewski, after a 66-52 win over Gonzaga on Sunday to win the South Regional.

"Just being with these kids and sharing this moment and this Final Four, I'm so happy, I'm so happy for them and to be with them," Coach K said. "I love my team. ... They're taking me to Indy, which is kind of neat."

Justise Winslow, the freshman playing home in Houston, finished with 16 points after rolling his left ankle early in the game, and had a big 3-pointer in the closing minutes. Tyus Jones scored 15 points, while Jahlil Okafor had nine points and eight rebounds.

"Coach has been to however many Final Fours, but this is his first one with this group and that's what means the most," Winslow said. "Living in this moment, living right now."

Duke (33-4), the region's No. 1 seed, is going to Indianapolis to play Michigan State in the Final Four. The other national semifinal game Saturday has undefeated Kentucky playing Wisconsin.

With 12, Krzyzewski matches UCLA's John Wooden for the most Final Four appearances by a head coach, one more than Dean Smith had with North Carolina. There are three coaches with seven, including Michigan State's Tom Izzo.

Duke's last Final Four and national title was in 2010, when the Blue Devils were also the No. 1 seed in the South Regional and had to go through Houston.

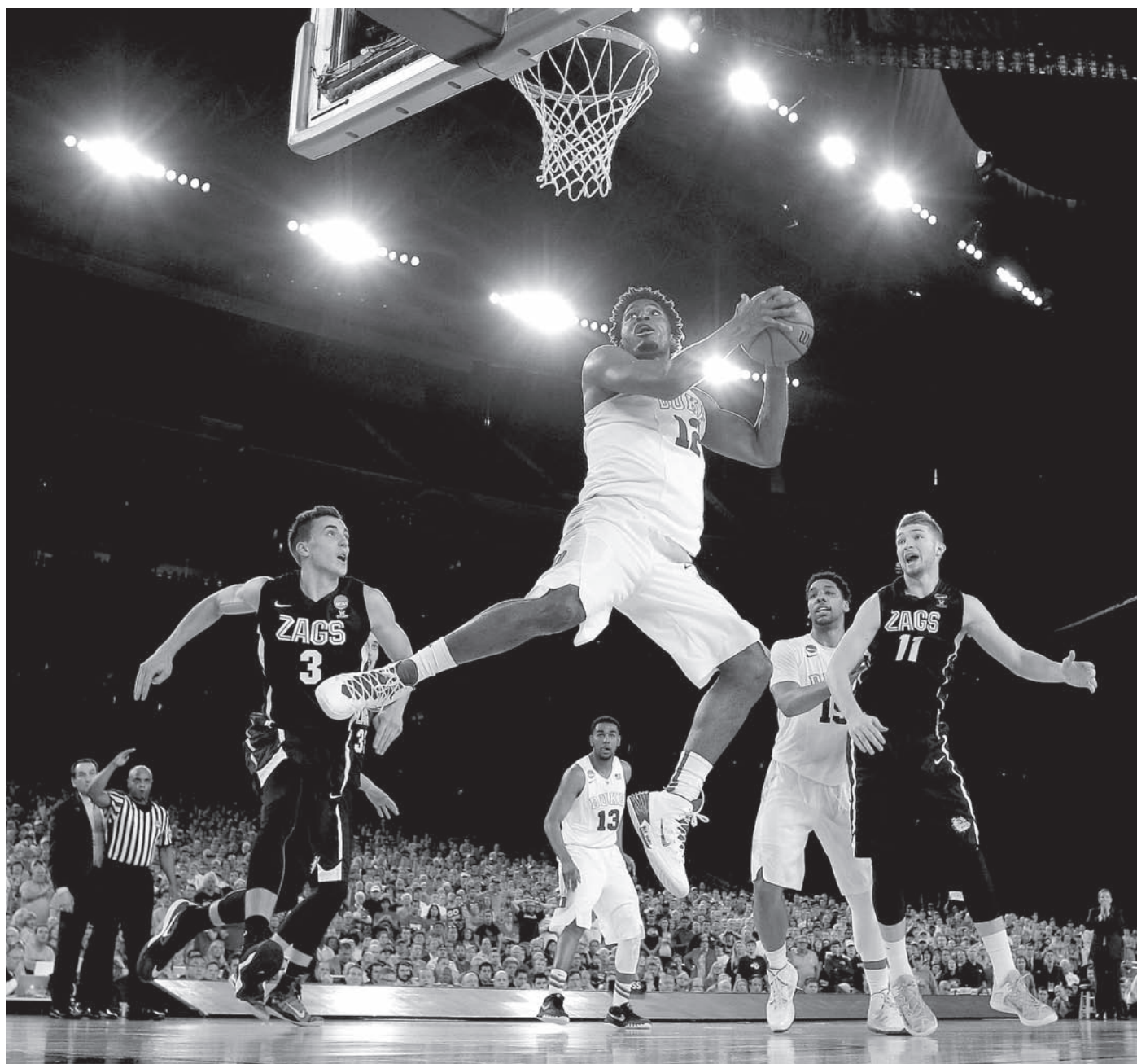
No. 2 seed Gonzaga (35-3) had taken a 38-34 lead less than 4 minutes into the second half, putting the Blue Devils in their largest deficit of this tournament.

Young Duke responded with nine straight points and never trailed again.

But Gonzaga later missed a chance to tie the game when Kyle Wiltjer missed an open layup with just under 5 minutes to play.

"You make that thing 499 times out of 500. It was just a fluke," coach Mark Few said. "It just didn't fall in. When that kind of moment happens, you've just got to shake your head, and it's not your night."

Matt Jones, sophomore starter for the Blue Devils, had 16 points with four 3-pointers. Quinn Cook, the senior guard who was part of Duke's open-



Duke's Justise Winslow (12) goes up for a shot as Gonzaga guard Kyle Dranginis (3) looks on during the second half of a college basketball regional final game in the NCAA Tournament Sunday, March 29, 2015, in Houston.

ing-round upset losses in 2012 and 2014, had 10 points.

Winslow's 3-pointer from the left wing with 2:28 left stretched the lead to 60-51 in a homecoming for the forward who turned 19 on Thursday.

After coming down awkwardly on a missed layup less than 8 minutes into the game, Winslow got his left ankle re-wrapped but wasn't out long.

"I rolled it pretty bad," he said. "It was a little stiff, a little sore, but I knew you never get this chance again so I just gave it my all."

Wiltjer, the transfer from Kentucky who as a freshman was part of the Wildcats' 2012 national championship, had 16 points. Byron Wesley had 10.

Gonzaga has been to 17 consecutive NCAA Tournaments, but never the Final Four.

This was only Gonzaga's second regional final, the other in 1999, when the mid-major Bulldogs were a No. 10 seed that lost to top-seeded UConn. Few was an assistant coach on that squad, and took over as head coach the following season.

Two years after losing in their second game as a No. 1 seed, the Zags missed out again in the finale for Kevin Pangos and Gary Bell Jr. The seniors, who each played at

least 135 games for Gonzaga, were a combined 4-of-14 shooting for nine points.

Wesley, the other Gonzaga senior starter who had transferred from USC for his final season, picked up a loose ball and made a layup while being foul. His free throw made it 38-34 with 16:20 left.

Duke's go-ahead stretch included a tiebreaking 3-pointer by Matt Jones on an assist from Tyus Jones, who then had a nifty play to get Duke the ball back.

Przemek Karnowski had grabbed a defensive rebound before being stripped by Jones, who leaped in the air for the loose ball and dropped it straight down on Karnowski laying out of bounds. Okafor then made a jumper.

"It was just a point in the game we had to make plays," Jones said. "Coach tells us to be confident."

And they are.

## Michigan State 76, Louisville

In Syracuse, N.Y., Travis Trice vowed a day earlier that he wasn't going to cry should the Michigan State Spartans continue their improbable run to the Final Four.

The senior guard's vow lasted no more than 10 seconds once the final horn sounded

following Michigan State's 76-70 overtime victory over Louisville in a thrilling NCAA Tournament East Regional final Sunday.

Amid the frenzied celebration, Trice squatted down at center court and began to sob uncontrollably.

"I was actually trying to hold it in," Trice said. "I try to keep it even keeled. I'm mad that I even cried now."

That's when senior forward Branden Dawson interjected by saying that was the first time he's ever seen Trice cry.

Counted out for done as recently as six weeks ago, the seventh-seeded Spartans (27-11) let it all out in a thrilling display of perseverance and defensive grit to oust the fourth-seeded Cardinals (27-9).

"I'd like to tell you that I thought five different times this year that we were good enough to get to a Final Four, but I'd be lying to you," said coach Tom Izzo, who described this as the best of seven regional final victories he has enjoyed. "But I think the burning desire to be in this Final Four, and they didn't want to be a group that didn't make it. I think it was more of the battle cry all year long."

Trice led the Spartans with 17 points. Dawson had 11 rebounds, including a key put-

back of Bryn Forbes' missed 3-point shot with 31.7 seconds left in overtime. And Denzel Valentine scored 15 points for a Michigan State team that won for the 12th time in 15 games. It's a run that included them knocking off second-seeded Virginia last weekend and third-seeded Oklahoma in the regional semifinal on Friday.

Michigan State will face Duke, which beat Gonzaga 66-52 in the South Regional final, on Saturday in Indianapolis.

Wayne Blackshear had 28 points for the Cardinals (27-9) in a game that featured 11 lead changes.

There could have been a 12th with 4.9 seconds left in regulation, when Cardinals forward Mangok Mathiang hit his first free throw to tie the game on a shot that hit off the heel of the rim and bounced high and in. But he wasn't so fortunate on his second one, which also hit the heel and bounced wide left.

"Sometimes it can be a cruel game. I was positive we were going to win it when the first free throw went in because it shouldn't have gone in," Cardinals coach Rick Pitino said. "It's very difficult for all the players. But real proud of our guys."

Louisville was denied a shot of making its third Final Four

in four years, and 11th overall.

It's the ninth Final Four appearance for the Spartans, and first since 2010, when they lost 52-50 to Butler in the national semifinals. Izzo has led them to seven Final Fours including the 2000 national championship.

The Spartans did it with a roster that was regarded as having less talent than the team that lost in the regional final to Connecticut a year ago. Michigan State lost three of its top four scorers.

"Everybody doubted us. Everybody had us down and out," Valentine said. "They didn't have us making the tournament. We just kept strong. We believe in ourselves."

The Spartans rallied from a 40-32 halftime deficit to eventually build a 61-59 lead with 3:57 left, when Trice hit two free throws.

Michigan State took control in overtime, starting with Forbes hitting a 3-pointer 26 seconds in.

The Spartans then sealed it in the final 31 seconds. Dawson did what Izzo's teams have done well over the years: He put back a 3-point miss by Forbes to put Michigan State up 74-70.

Valentine batted away Quentin Snider's pass into the paint on the Cardinals' next possession, and Trice sealed the win by hitting two free throws with 10.1 seconds left.

Michigan State's defense—Izzo's other trademark—played havoc with the Cardinals. After hitting 17 of 32 attempts in the first half, Louisville managed to make six of its final 32.

It is the third straight year one conference has had two teams in the Final Four. The Southeastern Conference did last year with Kentucky and Florida and the Big East had Louisville and Syracuse in 2013.

The last time the Big Ten did it was 2005 with Michigan State and Illinois.

Though Blackshear stepped up his performance in what became his final collegiate game, Cardinals junior forward Montrezl Harrell struggled.

Harrell missed his last five shots and was off on five of nine free throw attempts in what was also his final game. Harrell has already indicated his intention to enter the NBA draft.

"It hurts a lot," Harrell said.

"It's over," added Blackshear, a member of the Cardinals 2013 national championship team. "But I get to look back and say I had a great career."

Blackshear had his nose bloodied with 3:57 left, when he hit a driving layup and was fouled hard by Matt Costello. Dillon Avare came off the bench to hit the free throw while Blackshear missed a few possessions while being tended to on the bench.



# Ailing Wade, aching Heat find a way to beat Pistons, 109-102



**MIAMI (AP)**—Dwyane Wade scored 40 points one day after having fluid removed from his balky left knee, Udonis Haslem set season highs with 18 points and 13 rebounds, and the undermanned Miami Heat beat the Detroit Pistons 109-102 on Sunday night.

James Ennis matched his season best with 16 points, Mario Chalmers scored 11 and Goran Dragic had 10 for the Heat, who won their fifth straight at home and strengthened their hold on the No. 7 spot in the Eastern Conference standings.

Andre Drummond had 32 points and 14 rebounds for the Pistons, who had won four in a row. Reggie Jackson had 31 points and nine assists.

Miami was up by as many as 17 in the third, but back-to-back 3-pointers from Jodie Meeks late in the quarter helped spark a Detroit run that got the Pistons within 71-65 going into the fourth.

But the Heat held on, with Wade scoring 19 points - going 11 for 11 from the line - in the fourth quarter.

Miami used seven players in the second half, after forwards Luol Deng (left knee) and Michael Beasley (right elbow) got hurt in the opening two quarters. Centers Hassan Whiteside (hand) and Chris Andersen (calf) were ruled out before the game, as was Shabazz Napier (hip). And Wade had his knee drained after being bothered by a bruise for several days.

Detroit made eight of its first nine shots and grabbed a quick



**AP**  
Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) drives to the basket ahead of Detroit Pistons forward Tayshaun Prince during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 29, 2015, in Miami.

and backup guard J.J. Barea (sprained left ankle).

## Cavaliers 87, 76ers 86

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 20 points, Kyrie Irving added 17 and Cleveland hung on for the victory.

The Cavaliers earned their 16th straight home win despite being held scoreless in the final 4:04.

Trailing by a point, the 76ers called timeout with 8.5 seconds left. Nerlens Noel missed a shot in the lane and Tristan Thompson was fouled while grabbing the rebound. Cleveland called timeout to inbound the ball at midcourt. The pass was tipped away as time ran out.

Robert Covington scored 19 points for Philadelphia, but missed two free throws with 1:07 left that could have put the 76ers ahead.

## Rockets 99, Wizards 91

In Washington, James Harden had 24 points and Corey Brewer scored 15, leading Houston to the road win.

Rockets center Dwight Howard had 11 points and 10 rebounds in 19 minutes in his third game back from a right knee injury.

Harden only made 7 of 20 shots but went 9 for 10 at the foul line. He added six assists and one into-the-stands block of Bradley Beal's 3-point try with 25 seconds left.

Trevor Ariza, who left Washington as a free agent after last season, contributed 13 points, eight rebounds and active defense for Houston, which led by as many as 16 in the first half.

The Wizards are fifth in the Eastern Conference and could have guaranteed themselves a place in the postseason with a victory.

## Pelicans 110, Timberwolves 88

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 28 points and nine rebounds, powering the Pelicans to the victory.

Omer Asik had 15 points for New Orleans, and Eric Gordon added 12 points. The Pelicans shot 57.3 percent and were never threatened after opening a double-digit lead early in the fourth quarter.

Andrew Wiggins had 20 points and Zach LaVine scored 17 for the Timberwolves.

Robbie Hummel returned to Minnesota's lineup after missing 29 games with a fractured right hand, while Anthony Bennett came back from a right ankle sprain that sidelined him 18 games. They played limited minutes as the Wolves lost for the 10th time in 12 games.

## Thunder 109, Suns 97

In Phoenix, Russell Westbrook had 33 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, and the Oklahoma City Thunder rallied from 20 points down to beat the Phoenix Suns 109-97 on Sunday night.

D.J. Augustin scored 13 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter for the Thunder, who ended a four-game road skid. Steven Adams had 13 points and 16 rebounds, and Dion Waiters

scored 18 points.

Oklahoma City pulled away with a dominant final period and stayed 2 1/2 games ahead of New Orleans for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Westbrook was 10 of 29 from the field and 12 of 14 from the foul line while playing 38 minutes.

Markieff Morris scored 24 points for the Suns, who dropped four games behind Oklahoma City. Rookie reserve T.J. Warren had 18 points, and Eric Bledsoe and Marcus Morris scored 15 apiece.

## Spurs 103, Grizzlies 89

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard had 25 points and 10 rebounds, and the Spurs cruised to the victory.

San Antonio won for the 13th time in 16 games to remain sixth in the Western Conference. Tiago Splitter finished with 15 points, and Tim Duncan and Boris Diaw scored 10 apiece.

The Spurs shot 51 percent from the field and had 25 assists while handing the Grizzlies their third straight loss.

Zach Randolph had 20 points and 13 rebounds for Memphis, and Jeff Green scored 19 points.

## Nets 107, Lakers 99

In New York, Brook Lopez had 30 points and 11 rebounds, and Brooklyn kept up its playoff push with its third straight victory.

Joe Johnson added 18 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for the Nets, who moved a half-game ahead of Boston and Indiana for eighth place in the Eastern Conference. The Celtics lost 119-106 to the Los Angeles Clippers.

Brooklyn won for the fifth time in six games to give itself a chance at a third straight

eight-point lead, then proceeded to shoot 9 for 31 - 29 percent—over the remainder of the first half.

Wade had 17 first-half points, two coming after his shot was blocked by Drummond but ricocheted for a score anyway to help Miami grab a 49-44 lead at the break. Haslem had 10 points and 10 rebounds by halftime, just the fourth time in his career and the first time since April 3, 2010, that he pulled off that feat.

## Jimmy Walker wins hometown Texas Open

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)**—Jimmy Walker made himself right at home on the Texas Open leaderboard.

Walker won his hometown event Sunday to become the first two-time winner this season on the PGA Tour, beating fellow Texan Jordan Spieth by four strokes.

“(Spieth) really made me fight hard,” Walker said. “He kept hitting it close, and I had to keep making putts.”

Walker made birdie putts of 15 feet at No. 16 and 17 feet at the 17th in a 2-under 70 that left him at 11-under 277 at TPC San Antonio, a 35-minute drive from his home.

The 36-year-old former Baylor player won the Sony Open in Hawaii by nine shots in January and has a tour-best five victories in the past two seasons.

“Everybody says it’s hard to win at home,” Walker said, “(but) it’s hard to win any week - home, away, out of the country, it’s hard. So I feel good.”

Spieth also finished with a 70, making four late birdies in a row. The 21-year-old Dallas

player was coming off a play-off victory two weeks ago at Innisbrook.

“It actually looked like I had a chance,” said Spieth, seven shots back with eight to play. “I didn’t think that would be possible. You’re never out of it in this game, but Jimmy shut that down pretty quickly with his made putts.”

Walker and Spieth will move to career highs in the world ranking, with Spieth going from sixth to fourth and Walker from 13th to 10th.

“That’s cool,” Spieth said. “But I’m not pinching myself, because there are three guys ahead.”

FedEx Cup champion Billy Horschel was third at 4 under after a 71.

Daniel Summerhays, second last year behind Steven Bowditch, tied for fourth with Chesson Hadley at 3 under. Summerhays closed with a 69, and Hadley had a 71.

Doral winner Dustin Johnson shot his second straight 68 to match Ryan Palmer at 2 under. Palmer also had a 68.

“With the same wind the last

three days it helped to figure out the course, and I played well,” Johnson said, noting steady wind at past 20 mph much of this week. “I just played a couple of holes bad. Other than that, I played a lot of good golf in between and if I played those other holes better it’s a whole different tournament.”

Phil Mickelson, looking for some momentum heading to the Masters, closed with a 76 to drop into a tie for 30th at 4 over.

Ten players finished under par, with the Oaks Course playing the toughest on the PGA Tour this season with a 74.581 stroke average - more than two shots over par. The previous high was PGA National’s Champion course at 1.832 over par for the Honda Classic.

Marc Warren and Harris English failed to crack the top 50 in the world ranking, which would have given them spots in the Masters. Warren, 52nd, needed to finish ahead of Brendan Todd to get in, but closed with a 70 to finish 35th. English, 53rd, needed at least a top 10. His final-round 72 only got him to 30th.





# 3 Saipan female triathletes complete XTERRA

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Female triathletes held their own in the male-dominated XTERRA Saipan Championship, as eight survived the treacherous race last Saturday.

Three Saipan betes were among the female participants who braved the rain-soaked course and managed to finish the 1.5-kilometer swim, 30K bike, and 12K trail run race.

XTERRA Saipan first-timer Lorie Hutchinson was the island's top finisher as she completed the dangerous trek in 4:24:33 and won the 50 to 54 age group. She timed in at 26:41 in the two-lap swim leg and was 48th (among 63 swimmers) out of the water. In the bike leg, she clocked in at 2:42:25, which is good for 42nd place, while her 1:15:27 in the run race ranked her at No. 22.

Kimiko McKagan also broke the five-hour mark, as she submitted 4:27:09, just about three minutes behind her 2014 time of 4:24:34. Though she failed to beat her time last year, McKagan was happy with her performance as she did not crash despite the tough race condition.

"No crash this time and it felt good," a jubilant McKagan said during the event's awards ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club last Saturday night.

McKagan was 50th out of the water with her 26:46, 36th both in the bike (2:32:47) and run (1:27:36) legs. She took the top honors in the 45 to 49 division, beating Guam's Michelle Santos, who logged 6:13:42 with split times of 24:32, 3:31:17, and 2:17:53.

McKagan's training buddy, Kaity Mattos, also beat the five-hour barrier with her 4:33:00, which was way faster than her

JON PEREZ  
Kaitlin Mattos of Saipan negotiates the jungle leg of last Saturday's XTERRA Saipan Championship. Mattos earned a spot in the World Championships in Maui, Hawaii after recording a 4:33:00 finish in her age division.



XTERRA debut time of 4:49:27 (last year). Mattos was ranked No. 34 in the swim leg (23:35) and 34th in the bike (2:32:52) races, and No. 44 in the run (1:36:33).

Meanwhile, Japan's Kyoco



Urashima was the fastest non-pro female participant in last weekend's race and the only one in her field to complete the race under four hours after recording 3:59:38. She ruled the 35 to 39

age group, downing American Allison Moore (6:14:28). Other finishers were Guam's Jessica Dayrit (5:20:43) and Blanda Camacho (6:13:41).

This year's women's non-pro finishers doubled last season's count (four).

## Kensuke to swim for top college team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Kensuke Kimura will soon be competing in the collegiate ranks after getting a slot on the Chukyo University swim team.

According to Kensuke's father, Hiro, the former will start suiting up for Chukyo on April 1. Chukyo is a private university in Aichi Prefecture in Japan and has campuses in Nagoya and Toyota. The older Kimura added that the university has produced several swimmers who represented Japan in the Olympics and World Champi-

onships. Chukyo has also won two college championships in the last four years and is under the guidance of Japan national coach (FINA short course) Yuichiro Sasaki.

Kensuke, in an email to *Saipan Tribune*, said he is honored to be part of the champion team and thankful to have a chance to compete in the collegiate level.

"It is such an honor to swim for the champion school and I



thanked everyone who helped me make the team. Thank you to the people who supported me since the day I started swimming and until now. I couldn't have done this all by myself," said Kensuke who left the island for Japan mid last year after completing high school at Grace Christian Academy.

When he moved to Japan,



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Kensuke Kimura wears the Chukyo University swim team cap during a photo shoot for *TAGA Sports* magazine late last year.

## SHANE

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time we get promoted since we earned it. Especially Shane, he has improved a lot. The jiu-jitsu skills he learned while training in Guam will be useful in his future fights," Alvarez told *Saipan Tribune*.

He added that the three professors approached them and told them about their decision. "That was a bit of a good news. Us being stranded in Guam for a few days had some positive results after all."

Shane holds a 10-2 record and is coming off a loss to UFC vet-

eran Darren Uyenoyama (10-5) in Pacific Xtreme Combat 45 on Oct. 24 last year.

Jiu-jitsu follows a belt promotion pattern of white, blue, purple, brown, and black.

In other news, Roman Alvarez, Shane's cousin, brought home a gold medal after competing in last month's Abu Dhabi trials in Guam. He defeated all other blue belts in his weight division earning a slot in the open category.

The overall champion earns a spot in the tough finals in Abu Dhabi this year. Roman, however, lost in his open division match.

## Route 33 Alamo jumps on top of Thursday League

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Route 33 Alamo Car Rental and the Abyss Titans defeated their respective opponents but the former scored the most number of wins to grab the top spot after Week 8 in the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

Route 33 Alamo drubbed the Barcode Breakers, 13-2, while the Titans scored a 9-6 decision over Jonny's Team SCS. Route 33 now has a 70-50 card to enjoy a two-win lead over the Titans' 68-52 record.

Roman Rodriguez, Boyet Sequico, Ruben Santos, and Manny Mariano won 10 of their 12 matches against the Breakers. Their two losses are in both the final games of the Singles 8-Ball events as they only had fielded four players.

Wild Bill's are in third at 66-54 following a 9-6 triumph against the Abyss Rack 'N' Roll, while the Jok-

ers Homeboyz and the latter are closely behind at 64-56 and 63-57. The Smoke Pub Magic 8 Ball are at sixth with a 62-58 slate.

The Homeboyz and the Barcode Hobbies Deadshot escaped with similar 8-7 wins over the Jokers Wonderpool Aces and the Magic 8 Ball, respectively.

In the Tuesday League, the Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers drubbed the Jokers Str8 Shooters, 12-3, to remain on top of the standings with a 75-45 record.

The Jokers IT&E Voyagers failed to gain some ground after dropping an 8-7 defeat to the Smoke Ali'I Destroyers. The Voyagers are in second with a 68-52 mark.

The Abyss Crazy8 also completed an 8-7 decision against sister team Homeboyz II in the other game.

Week 9 continues tonight in the Tuesday League, while the Thursday League resumes its matches on April 2 in various bars on the island.



## SETTSU

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chipped in 12, while Taiki Kondo contributed 11.

Michael Espinosa led MHS Blue's losing cause with his 19 points, while Prince Factor added 13.

Factor and Espino alternately carried MHS Blue to their shoulders in the first half, while Ishikawa anchored Settsu and drew help from Yamashita and Kondo to take a precarious 30-25 halftime edge.

The game remained tight in the second half and there was a seesaw battle in the closing minutes with MHS Blue holding the lead for the last time after Kobe Mendoza split his charities, 50-49. However, the Dolphins failed to hang on to the shaky lead as they turned the ball over in the ensuing play and Ishikawa countered with his back-breaking free throws.

Settsu advanced to the fi-

nals after waltzing past Kagman High School, 32-20, in the semifinal match that was played the same day.

Yamashita lifted Settsu to the semis victory after tallying 10 markers, while four of his teammates chipped in at least 6 markers apiece en route to the double-digit victory. Kagman had a lackluster performance on offense in its semis showdown with Settsu with no Ayuyus player scoring more than 4 points.

In the other semis pairing, MHS Blue eliminated Saipan Southern High School, 39-30. Espinosa also top-scored in the Dolphins triumph over the Manta Rays, registering 11.

**Settsu 51** – Ishikawa 20, Yamashita 12, Kondo 11, Kinumura 6, Eguchi 2.

**MHS Blue 50** – Espinosa 19, Factor 13, Arciaga 7, De Leon 6, Borja 2, Ong 2, Mendoza 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 30-25, 51-50.

## BREWERS

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was fielded cleanly by third baseman Rabauliman to Byron Kaipat at first base.

Sablan, Diego Camacho, and Tyron Omar all also went 2-for-4 in batting with the former scoring twice. Camacho both had RBI singles and had two runs, while Omar had a two-RBI double in the second inning and touched home plate twice.

Tenorio gave up three earned runs on nine hits fanning four and walking six. He hit two batters by pitch, Sablan and

Nokki Saralu in the sixth.

Kaipat, who had a lead-off single in the second, and Ver-lance Secharmidal scored the Fielders' two runs.

The game was almost rained out as the game was delayed for almost 30 minutes with the Brewers holding a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning. The infield was quickly covered with a tarp to avoid getting wet.

Play being halted did not slow down the Brewers' offense as they managed to pile up the runs that resulted in the shortened match.



# Bike Leg of XTERRA Saipan

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ



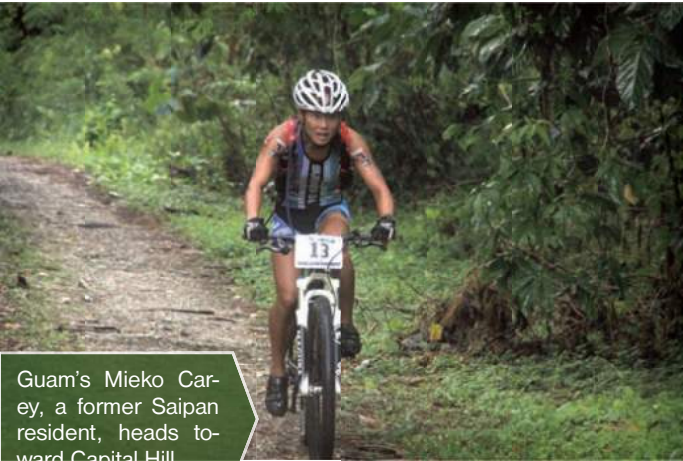
South African Bradley Weiss prepares his gear in the bicycle leg's transition area in last Saturday's XTERRA Saipan Championship.



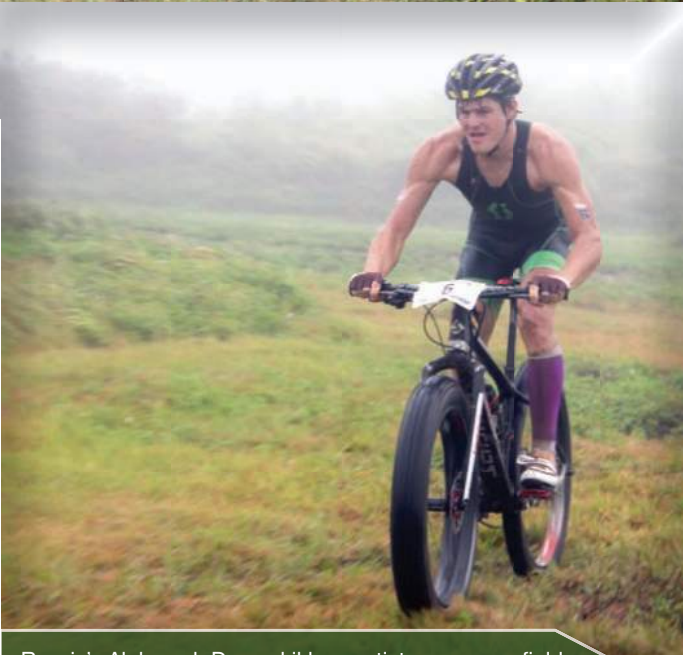
Saipan's Erico Castro maneuvers his bike on the dirt road leading to the Sound of Music.



New Caledonia's David Esposito takes a drink while on his bike.



Guam's Mieko Caray, a former Saipan resident, heads toward Capital Hill.



Russia's Aleksandr Dorovskikh negotiates a grassy field.



Ben Allen of Australia climbs a steep part of Mt. Tapochao.



Filipino bet Joseph Miller negotiates the dirt road leading to Capital Hill.



Markus Benech of Austria carefully makes a turn.



South Korea's Kaon Cho tries to catch up with the leaders.



Renata Bucher of Switzerland (11) pedals ahead of Austrian Carina Wasle in the road connecting Navy Hill and Wireless.





**Duke back in  
Final Four  
after 66-52 win  
over Gonzaga**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Settsu nips MHS Blue in finale



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Settsu Red Impulse completed its double victory in the 2015 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament after escaping with a 51-50 win against Marianas High School Blue in their boys title match last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tomohiro Ishikawa made the dagger, hitting a pair of pressure-packed free throws in the closing seconds to give Settsu its second championship in the same tournament this year. Earlier, the visiting squad's female players whipped MHS Blue, 44-27, in their own championship showdown last weekend.

Ishikawa canned the two important charities after he made a big defensive stop, stealing possession from Irvin Malonzo, who was forced to give up a pre-emptive foul with the former on the way for a breakaway layup.

After Ishikawa drilled the two free shots, MHS Blue still had time and opportunities to score, but failed to nail the go-ahead

basket to have another bridesmaid finish in the annual tournament. Last year, MHS also lost



to the MISO All-Stars by a hair, 68-69.

Ishikawa top-scored for Settsu with his 20 points, while two other players from the visiting squad also earned double figures. Tatsumi Yamashita

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## Shane, Cuki earn belt promotions

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Trench Tech Gyn founder Cuki Alvarez and his family being stranded in Guam two weeks ago had some positive results after the father-and-son tandem earned their respective belt promotions in Brazilian Jiu-jitsu.

Shane Alvarez was promoted from white to blue belt, while his father earned a promotion from blue to purple after three Brazilian Jiu-jitsu professors and one master recognized their improved skills following a few nights of training in separate gyms in Guam.

The Alvarezes trained with Carlson Gracie Jiu-jitsu Academy main instructor Gabe Baker, Prof. Steve Roberto, and Ultimate Fighting Cham-

pionship fighter John "Super Saiyan" Tuck, who is busy preparing for a UFC fight on May 16 in Manila.

Baker is a high-ranking brown-belter in Guam, while Roberto is the head instructor at Purebred Jiu-jitsu Guam, Trench Tech's sister gym. Tuck, the first Chamorro-born fighter to be signed by UFC, will face South Korean

Tae Hyun Bang in an undercard bout.

Black belt professors Luis Blanco of The Pound Academy, and Spike 22's Dan O'Connor and Mike Ulloa, and Baker saw how steadily Shane and Cuki's skills have improved and decided to promote them one belt higher.

"They said that it was about

**See SHANE on  
Page 26**

## Brewers drub Fielders in playoff opener

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER



Jun Rabauliman blasted his first postseason homer to power the GSM Brew-

ers to a 16-2 victory over the IP&E Fielders in a rain-soaked opener of their best-of-three playoffs in the Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Rabauliman belted a three-

RBI inside-the-park homer to highlight the defending champions' seven-run sixth inning barrage as the Brewers to a return trip to the finals. A win on Wednesday would secure the Brew Crew the first championship spot.

The Saipan Stevedore Yankees and the Falcons are the other half of the semifinal pairing. The Yankees, who finished second after the elimination round, were playing against the Falcons at press time.

Rabauliman, who struck out twice against Fielders pitcher Ton Tenorio, went 2-for-4 with three runs and four RBIs. He walked in the second inning scoring one of the Brewers' six

runs and had an RBI single in the third.

Lancaster Secharmidal, who tossed a complete game, shut down the Fielders in the top of the seventh to complete the win. The lefty hurler was tagged with two earned runs on six hits with five strikeouts and two walks.

Secharmidal completed his job on the mound in the top of the seventh, shutting down the Fielders, despite enjoying an almost insurmountable lead. He forced Cody Kaipat to an infield fly, which was caught by catcher Manny Sablan for the first out.

He retired Robert Guerrero before giving up a double to Ton Guerrero, and forced Quimson Blas to ground out in a game-ending putout play that

JON PEREZ  
The GSM Brewers celebrate their win against the IP&E Fielders in Game 1 of their best-of-three semifinals series last Friday night.



JON PEREZ  
Shane Alvarez, kneeling left, and his father Cuki pose with other Brazilian Jiu-jitsu practitioners on Saipan. Others in photo are, standing from left, Mike Muna, Adam Harris, Cole Morril. Kneeling right is Robert Alvarez.

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